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THE TIMES

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No. 65,766 FRIDAY DECEMBER 20 1996

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Two Britons among 484 hostages

SAS flies in to join siege of embassy

By GABRIELLA GAMINI IN LIMA, DAVID ADAMS AND MICHAEL EVANS

AN SAS team arrived in Lima to link up with American security experts in the Peruvian capital, as the 484 hostages inside the Japanese Ambassador's residence settled in for a third night with their 30 heavily-armed captors.

The six SAS men were sent as advisers to John Illman, the British Ambassador, but their expertise could be used in the event of a decision to storm the besieged residence.

The Peruvian authorities were consulted about the SAS involvement, although there was apparently no specific request for assistance from the Lima Government. The team from the SAS headquarters in Hereford includes experts in the use of explosives and a sniper team commander.

Several experienced hostage negotiators from Scotland Yard also arrived in Lima, as a number of countries offered assistance to help bring the siege to a peaceful conclusion.

The United States is understood to have sent a team from its Delta Force special forces unit which is modelled on the SAS.

The US Embassy in Lima set up a special hostage crisis centre, manned by FBI agents. A small number of Americans are among the captives inside the Japanese residence. Only by a stroke of good luck did Peru's President Fujimori avoid becoming a hostage himself in the well-planned guerrilla assault. Señor Fujimori had been due to attend Tuesday's reception but was late returning from a trip to the provinces.

Army troops and police surrounded the compound yesterday, which is located behind a 10ft concrete wall topped by a 10ft electric fence. Police sharpshooters patrolled nearby roofs.

Negotiations moved slowly. The talks so far have been sporadic and there have been uneasy radio communications between an edgy-sounding rebel leader who calls himself "Comandante" Evaristo, and an equally nervous Peruvian Education Minister, Domingo Palermo.

The hostages, who include 12 ambassadors, complained of tension and overcrowding, although the Red Cross was allowed to deliver food and medical supplies to the residence.

Marc Cortal, an international Red Cross doctor who was allowed inside the compound, said the hostages appeared calm and healthy despite the threat from the "Tupac Katari" guerrillas. "Morale is high," he began, "because they are securing their lives by us."

Mediation efforts between the Peruvian Government and the guerrillas were being assisted by the International Red Cross. Anthony Vincent, the Canadian Ambassador who was one of five diplomats released by the guerrillas on Wednesday, also re-entered the residence yesterday to pass on messages.

The Peruvian Cabinet met in emergency session for the second time in two days, and a top-level delegation from Japan, led by Yukihito Ikeda, the Foreign Minister, arrived in

Lima to join in discussions. The hostages were reported to be crammed into two halls on the first and second floors of the large embassy residence with very little water and food. Among those still held captive are high-ranking diplomats, Japanese businessmen and top Peruvian security officials. Two Britons are also being held - Roger Church, deputy chief of mission of the British Embassy, and David Griffiths, a businessman.

The Tupac Amaru guerrillas want 400 of their members - including Victor Polay, their leader, - released from various prisons in Peru.

They also want the release of Lori Berenson, a 27-year-old New Yorker who was last year sentenced to life imprisonment for taking part in a failed attempt by the Tupac Amaru to storm the congress in Lima.

In addition, they have called on Señor Fujimori to reverse his liberal economic reforms and expel all foreign investors from Peru, and they are demanding money and safe passage to the Amazonian jungle in eastern Peru.

Herbert Wockel, the German Ambassador who was also freed on Wednesday, said the rebels seemed "calm but very determined".

The rebels infiltrated the party dressed as waiters, carrying champagne and hors d'oeuvres. They set off explosions and exchanged gunfire with police for almost an hour. Two hostages and a rebel were reported wounded.



Snipers watch the Japanese embassy compound in Lima where the hostages spent their second night

Man held for questioning over murder of Megan and Lin Russell

By RICHARD DUCE

MAGISTRATES last night granted police more time to interrogate a 35-year-old unemployed man arrested for questioning over the murders of Lin Russell and her daughter Megan.

Robert Friar can now be held until 11pm tonight before police decide whether to charge him with the double murder, release him, or ask a court for a final extension of six hours.

Mr Friar was arrested at a three-bedroomed council house in Goodnestone, near Canterbury, at 7am on Wednesday. He has been interviewed before about the killings of Mrs Russell, 45, and Megan, six, when he voluntarily agreed to answer police questions. He is being held at Chatham police station.

The detention of Mr Friar, who lives with his mother Maggie, a cleaner, is the first arrest in the hunt for the killer who battered Mrs Russell and her daughter to death with a hammer as they walked home from Goodnestone Primary School five months ago.

Josie Russell, nine, survived the attack and amazed doctors with her powers of recovery. Last night, Mr Friar made a brief appearance before Medway magistrates in Chatham, where police were granted a further 30 hours to question him until 11pm tonight.

Mr Friar lives in the village where the Russell children went to school.

The girls, accompanied by their mother, walked from Goodnestone to their home in the neighbouring village of Nonington twice a day.

Outside Mr Friar's home yesterday stood a battered brown Ford Escort. In the rear window was a sticker which read: "This car is being driven by Robert, ex boozier, ex lover, ex convict, ex mafia."

A neighbour said: "He is a nice boy. If anyone needs any help, he is always there. We are all old age pensioners round here and he always helps us out. He is always pleasant and polite. He loves children and he is always playing with them."

Josie, who was badly brain damaged in the attack, this week received a Children of Courage award from the Duchess of Kent. Although she is still unable to speak more than a few words she has described, by using models, how the killer stopped his car in a narrow country lane and beat all three with a hammer, leaving her for dead.

Greer's lobby company to be wound up

THE lobbying company at the centre of the cash-for-questions controversy is going into voluntary liquidation (Andrew Pierce writes).

Ian Greer Associates, once one of the most powerful companies in the political lobbying industry, is expected to be wound up next month.

Keith Goodman, a partner in Leonard Curtis accountants, is investigating the collapse of the business, which at one stage enjoyed a £3 million annual turnover.

Mr Greer and Neil Hamilton, the Tory MP, issued libel proceedings against The Guardian over the cash-for-questions allegations. But they withdrew days before the case was due to go ahead in October.

By the way: The Times overseas editions are published at the following prices: Australia \$20; Canada \$15; Europe £5; India \$10; Japan \$15; New Zealand \$10; Singapore \$10; South Africa \$10; USA \$10.

The Times on the Internet: <http://www.the-times.co.uk>



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Bhutto's husband charged with her brother's murder

FROM ZAHID HUSSAIN IN KARACHI

THE husband of Pakistan's deposed Prime Minister, Benazir Bhutto, has been charged with the murder of her brother, Murtaza.

The move is a serious blow for Miss Bhutto, six weeks before a parliamentary poll that is likely to decide her political future. Asif Ali Zardari was arrested on November 5 after his wife was dismissed and her Government dissolved by President Leghari on charges of corruption and misrule.

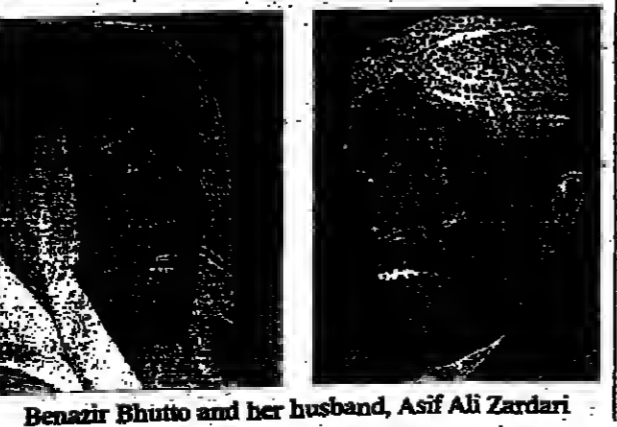
Sindh High Court Bench earlier yesterday had declared Mr Zardari's preventive detention illegal and ordered his release. But before he was freed, he was served with a warrant on the murder charge.

Murtaza Bhutto, the younger brother of the former Prime Minister and a political rival, was killed with seven party supporters in a police shooting outside his house in Karachi on September 20.

During an interview with The Times in October, Miss Bhutto said she was becoming reconciled with her "baby brother" before he was murdered and that she was profoundly shaken by his death.

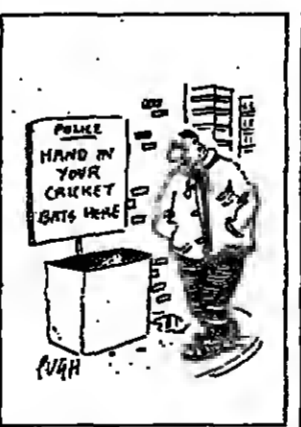
Police have already arrested a number of people over the murder, including Miss Bhutto's former intelligence chief, Masood Sharif, and several senior politicians.

Miss Bhutto has accused the caretaker Government of conspiring to keep her out of power.



Benazir Bhutto and her husband, Asif Ali Zardari

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Duke says sorry for gun remarks

The Duke of Edinburgh has apologized for his criticism of government plans to ban handguns.

But families of the victims of the Dunblane massacre demanded that the Duke retract the remarks. Tony Blair, the Labour leader, yesterday joined the criticism of the Duke's comments. Page 2

Death on film

The BBC is considering filming the last moments of a terminally ill man or woman as part of a series of seven programmes charting human life. MPs yesterday described the idea as "macabre" and "beyond belief". Page 5

Good forecasts

Anatole Kaletsky's economic predictions for 1996 on currencies, stockmarkets, the housing market and the "feel-good" factor have proved remarkably accurate. Page 25

Apologetic BBC restores Carey's new year TV slot

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE BBC was yesterday forced to restore the Archbishop of Canterbury's new year message to its traditional midnight slot after a personal protest by Dr George Carey.

Flicking through his Christmas edition of Radio Times, Dr Carey was dismayed to discover his five-minute message had been put back one hour in the schedules to make way for new year celebrations from Scotland. Instead, he found himself squeezed in before the start of a Carry On film.

He immediately telephoned to protest that the BBC was marginalising religion. After yesterday's conversation, the corporation was forced within hours into an embarrassing climbdown and issued an apology.

Last night, in spite of the Radio Times listing which puts Happy New Year at 1am on New Year's Day, Dr Carey was assured that his message will go out as usual a few minutes after Big Ben's midnight peals. But next year, the BBC insisted, the Archbishop will have to endure the later slot to allow a "seamless" transmission of the secular new year shows.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has broadcast a new year message from Lambeth Palace since 1987, when it began with

the then-incumbent, Dr Robert Runcie. It is recorded on December 30, after the Archbishop returns to Lambeth from his traditional Christmas holiday at the palace at Canterbury.

A spokeswoman for the Archbishop said yesterday: "The Archbishop values the opportunity to share some spiritual reflections with the country at a particularly significant moment at the start of the new year. We have reason to believe that many people appreciate this tradition and are pleased that the BBC shares that view."

A BBC spokesman said: "We made a mistake in not ensuring that there was a full explanation of the reasons for moving the Archbishop's message to 1am. We are now restoring the message to its traditional placing at 12.05, between The End of the Year Show and Hogmanay Live."

The Right Rev Nigel McCulloch, Bishop of Wakefield and head of the Church of England's communications committee, welcomed the BBC's capitulation. "It is important that the Archbishop of Canterbury is given the opportunity to share some spiritual values with the nation at a particularly significant moment."

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Cabinet keeps currency debate alive

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

A WEIGHTY alliance of ministers yesterday forced Kenneth Clarke to keep open the Cabinet discussion on the single currency in the run-up to the general election.

Senior ministers last night voiced hopes that the Government would take a deeply sceptical line on the prospects of Britain joining monetary union in the next Parliament after the Chancellor's attempt to end debate on the issue failed.

After a tense meeting at which economic and monetary union was discussed for 90 minutes, with apparently all members of the Cabinet contributing, Mr Clarke was

told to produce a new paper setting out the basis by which the Government would judge whether other countries, as well as Britain, had fulfilled the criteria for joining a single currency.

The idea was proposed by John Major as he summed up the unusually lengthy discussion in which all ministers said the paramount aim was to find a stance around which the party could unite and score points off Labour. The paper will be brought forward in late January or February.

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to produce a new paper setting out the basis by which the Government would judge whether other countries, as well as Britain, had fulfilled the criteria for joining a single currency.

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declaration nearer the election that it would be unlikely that Britain could enter a single currency in the following five years. A Cabinet source told *The Times*: "There is movement here. This issue remains alive."

Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary; Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary; Michael Howard, the Home Secretary; and Lord Cranborne, leader of the Lords, were the leading opponents yesterday of Mr Clarke's attempt to resolve the issue. He had brought forward a Treasury paper, commissioned two weeks ago at Mr Howard's suggestion, which concluded that it would not be possible to judge whether

Second fire breaks out in Channel Tunnel

Eurotunnel's attempt to rebuild public confidence in the safety of the Channel Tunnel received a setback yesterday when a fire broke out on board a Le Shuttle passenger train. The fire, almost exactly a month after the blaze that injured 14 people and closed the tunnel for 15 days, started in electrical wiring on an empty shuttle train early yesterday morning.

The train was standing at the Folkestone terminal close to the tunnel entrance. It was being used as an evacuation stand-by train in case of an emergency. A spokeswoman for Eurotunnel said the "small fire" was put out within 13 minutes by Kent Fire Brigade. "No one was injured, and nothing was damaged. The limited service we are running was not disrupted and we are investigating," she said.

Alone at the top

John Major has become Radio 4's Man of the Year by being the only man on the shortlist of six for the *Today* programme Personality of the Year. Voting was cut from four to three hours to limit any organised telephoning for the finalists. Tony Blair was disqualified after an attempt to rig the vote in his favour was discovered. A memo was sent to Labour supporters canvassing support. The Personality of the Year will be announced on Boxing Day.

Minister to stand down

THE Trade Minister, Anthony Nelson, is to stand down at the next election for "family and personal" reasons. Mr Nelson, 48, MP for Chichester since 1974, is the 61st Conservative to announce retirement from the Commons. He has a majority of 20,887 but his wife is suffering from a serious illness. His resignation means that, with Kensington and Chelsea, two of the safest seats in the country are up for grabs. *Leading article, page 17*

Troops head for Bosnia

A British force of 5,000 soldiers, equipped with Warrior armoured vehicles and heavy artillery, will today begin a 13-month tour of duty in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Codenamed Lodestar, the operation will be the third carried out by British troops since Britain became involved in Bosnia in 1992. The new contingent will be serving with the Nato-led Stabilisation Force, which takes over officially from Nato's Implementation Force this morning.

Prescott libel damages

John Prescott yesterday accepted undisclosed libel damages over a newspaper article that said he accepted a free flight to the United States organised by the political lobbyist Ian Greer. Mr Prescott's QC, Arthur Davidson, told Mr Justice French at the High Court that Mr Prescott had never accepted a flight or any other gift from Mr Greer. The report appeared in *The Daily Telegraph*, which was represented in court to retract the allegations.

Bouncers set to be vetted

Thousands of private security guards and night club bouncers would be vetted under government proposals to rid the industry of criminals. Security guards would be licensed by an independent authority, and it would be an offence to employ an unlicensed guard or to work as one. The proposals are a reversal of the Government's recent position when ministers argued that it would increase the burden of regulation on the industry.

Auditor clears council

A Tory council which pioneered sales of council houses was cleared of running a "barnes for votes" policy. However, the district auditor for Wandsworth council in south London found "serious shortcomings and omissions" in the advice members were given before deciding to put properties on the market. Rowland Little said the council misdirected itself in law about the correct way to meet its statutory duties to the homeless.

Brocket Hall relaunched

Brocket Hall, the ancestral home of Lord Brocket, now serving five years in jail for fraud, is to be relaunched as a leading hotel and conference centre. The new owners, Hong Kong-based CCA, which bought the house outside Welwyn, Hertfordshire, earlier this month for an estimated £9 million for a 60-year lease, plan to create a second 18-hole golf course on the 534-acre estate, and build a health spa, with a gym and pool.

Arts grants cut by 20%

Westminster Council is to cut its grants to arts groups by nearly 20 per cent. English National Opera and the Wigmore Hall, who are likely to be affected, said that their education programmes, the very activities from which Westminster's community most benefits, were likely to suffer first. Westminster councillors will decide on January 29 how the cuts should be made.

Tote bets are on

The Tote is to be allowed to take bets on the winning numbers of the Irish lottery from today, it was announced last night. The Home Office expects the turnover of the Tote to increase by about 2 per cent as a result of gamblers having a flutter on the winning numbers drawn in the Republic's lottery. It brings the Tote into line with other bookmakers.

Sculpture saved by grant

An 18th-century marble sculpture has been saved after an appeal by a museum in Bath. The 1752 work, which represents the goddess Diana and the youth Eudymion, is one of the rare surviving sculptures of Giuseppe Piam, an Italian master who made it after moving to Bath in 1749. The Heritage Memorial Fund gave £247,230 to prevent it leaving the Holburne Museum.

Duke apologises for distress caused by gun comments

By Jill Sherman and Shirley English

THE Duke of Edinburgh apologised yesterday for his outspoken criticism of government plans to ban handguns.

His remarks in a radio interview were condemned as outrageous and insensitive by parents of children killed in the Dunblane massacre. But Buckingham Palace said that Prince Philip had not intended to cause offence or distress and was sorry if he had done so.

Families of the Dunblane children refused to accept the apology and demanded that the Duke retract the original remarks made on Radio 5 Live's *Inside Edge* programme.



The Duke has failed to pacify his critics

The apology followed widespread criticism of Prince Philip after he suggested that members of shooting clubs were no more dangerous than cricketers or tennis players.

Tony Blair, the Labour leader, said that the Duke's comparison of handguns with cricket bats was "not a wise analogy". He said that the Duke was entitled to his views but Labour, which is pressing for a ban on all handguns, held a different position.

George Robertson, Shadow Scottish Secretary, was less diplomatic. "The views of one elderly aristocrat, based on a completely crazy view on a comparison between a cricket bat and rapid-fire handgun, is not going to deflect Parliament."

Mr Robertson welcomed the apology but said the comments had "damaged the credibility of Prince Philip enormously and I think these remarks are going to be counter-productive. It's the views of an eccentric individ-

very much focused in the area of how difficult it is to apply the law sensibly in these difficult situations," the Palace statement said. "Prince Philip made absolutely clear in the interview his horror at the Dunblane incident and his sympathy for the bereaved."

The Duke's controversial comments were recorded for an interview broadcast last night. He said in the interview: "There's no evidence that people who use weapons for sport are any more dangerous than people who use golf clubs or tennis rackets or cricket bats."

"If a cricketer, for instance, suddenly decided to go into a school and batter a lot of people to death with a cricket bat, which he could do very easily, I mean are you going to ban cricket bats?"

But John McLaren, 62, whose granddaughter, Megan Turner, was murdered at Dunblane, said the apology did not go far enough. "It was totally insensitive and shows he is a man with no feeling for the situation."

David Scott, whose daughter, Hannah, also died in the massacre, said: "He clearly has no understanding of the carnage that went on in that gymnasium."

A Labour Party political broadcast that featured a message being spelt out in gunfire did not breach standards of taste and decency, the Independent Television Commission has ruled. It said: "Whilst sorry to learn of the distaste, the ITC did not consider that a link with Dunblane would have been inferred by most viewers."



Jean Dennis: judge praised her devotion and efficiency in caring for husband

Payout for man in coma since ambulance strike

By a Staff Reporter

A MAN left in a permanent coma after an ill-equipped ambulance crew answered an emergency call during the ambulance strike of 1989 has finally been awarded compensation of £750,000. With only a bit of basic resuscitation, John Dennis, now 47, would probably have "walked off the stretcher" after a minor heart attack, his solicitor said.



John Dennis: he was awarded £750,000

Mr Dennis's wife, Jean, said that her emergency call on December 17, 1989, was answered by two soldiers in an army ambulance, who did not appear to know what to do, were ill-equipped and needed directions from the couple's home in Edgwick, Coventry, to the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital. The journey should have taken two or three minutes, but a wrong turn added a four or five minutes to the trip and, by the time Mr Dennis arrived at the hospital, he had suffered irreparable brain damage.

Mrs Dennis, 46, now living in Bedworth, has since cared for her husband at home. Mr Justice McCullough praised her dedication yesterday, saying: "The blend of devotion

and efficiency shines through every report. I do not remember a case in which praise has been put to the carer in quite such glowing terms."

He agreed that the couple should be advanced £150,000 so that they could buy a bungalow and make the necessary modifications for Mr Dennis.

He made the award against NHS Litigation, which took over from the original defendants, the West Midlands Health Authority and the Ministry of Defence. The case

Death toll in food poison outbreak increases to 15

By Shirley English

THE death toll in the *E. coli* O157 food poisoning outbreak in Scotland rose to 15, making it the world's second worst on record, after two elderly people died in hospital.

A 76-year-old man, believed to be from New Stevenston, and a 78-year-old woman from Wishaw, North Lanarkshire, died at Monklands hospital, on Wednesday night. The woman, Sarah (Cissie) Cameron had attended a pensioners' lunch on November 17 at Wishaw Old Parish Church.

Seven people at the meal have died after eating meat pies and gravy supplied by John M. Barr & Son, the Wishaw butcher thought to be

the sole source of the epidemic. Mrs Cameron had been ill since November 21 when the outbreak was first identified. She was admitted to hospital on November 27. The man who died had also eaten meat bought from an outlet supplied by Barr.

A total of 407 people now have symptoms of the bacterium and 250 have been confirmed as having the infection, an increase of 15 on the previous day. Six adults are seriously ill.

Syed Ahmed, the public health consultant leading the outbreak control team, said yesterday that the recent deaths were from the first wave of illnesses. He maintained the epidemic was now

firmly under control with new cases arising at a rate of one or two a day, all of which could be traced to secondary infection from person to person. "We are confident that we have eliminated the source of the infection," Dr Ahmed said.

Mr Barr's solicitor, George Moore, is to meet with North Lanarkshire environmental health officers on Monday to discuss the results of tests on cooked and pre-prepared meat products taken from his shop. "The first of a series of full-page advertisements giving advice on personal hygiene and the dangers of food poisoning over the Christmas and New Year period will begin appearing in Lanarkshire newspapers today.

"Oh, blige!! What can I get for Rob?"



Music From The Motion Picture "Evita"
"I've heard so many good things about the film I can't wait to see it. Evita Barry Norman was singing about her on the telly, called her magnificent. I think I've heard her version of 'Don't Cry For Me Argentina' and it was shivers down my spine. Plus there's a new song which Andrea Lloyd Webber wrote especially for her, called 'You Must Love Me' and, of course, 'Another Suitcase In Another Hall'. Why wait?"



Bays "The Memory Of Trees"
"Bays's records are always beautiful. You can get them on and drift off into another world. It's cheaper than a holiday. The consensus is that this one's her best ever. 'Hanging, evocative... extraordinary' is said in the Daily Express, and Q said it was 'Like nothing else on Earth'. Plus it's got 'Anytime Is' and the gorgeous 'On My Way Home' on it. Luscious."



Alanis Morissette "Jagged Little Pill"
"She's incredible. She was a winner at the Brit Awards, and the Grammys and has hardly been out of the charts or off the radio all year. I know all the words to her songs 'You Oughta Know', 'Ironic', 'Head Over Feet', 'All I Really Want' and 'Hand In My Pocket'. She really tells it like it is and good for her, I say. Definitely."



Rod Stewart "If We Fall In Love Tonight"
"Nobody sings love songs like Rod Stewart. What a voice, and he's had some great love songs in the charts, all of which are on this record. 'Have I Told You Lately', 'I Don't Want To Talk About It', 'Downtown Tulsa', 'Tom Traubert's Blues (Waltzing Matilda)', 'You're In My Heart'. Plus there's some new versions of classics like 'When I Need You' so bring it up to disc. Lovely, lovely."



R.E.M. "New Adventures In Hi-Fi"
"I got that 'Automatic For The People' a couple of years back and everybody said it was their best, but this one's even better. Five stars in Q and a bunch of accolades that make it a bit of a winner in the Christmas gift stakes. It includes 'Electrolite', 'How The West Was Won (and Where It Got Lost)', 'Bittersweet Me' and the beautiful 'E-Box (The Letter)'. A classic."

Why did d... ignore sc... of rape vic...



Bus, too scar... anxious to get...

Why did drivers ignore screams of rape victim?

By DANIEL MCGRODY

PEOPLE returning home from work and local residents expressed their astonishment and disgust last night that evening rush-hour drivers did not stop to rescue a woman who was beaten and raped on a busy street in Chislehurst, southeast London.

The 36-year-old senior civil servant fought the rapist for almost five minutes under the glare of street lights while motorists idling in a traffic jam ignored her screams for help. The woman was so badly beaten, police say, that there is not an inch of her face that is not cut or bruised. Her cheekbone has been broken and her nose badly swollen.

The woman usually walks the short route home from Chislehurst station with her boyfriend. But on Tuesday night, when she was assaulted, he had to attend a reception.

Women walking their dogs on the Chislehurst cricket ground, where the attack happened, yesterday condemned as cowards those who refused to help her. The attacked woman, who was released from hospital yesterday, told police she was so close to the traffic that she could clearly distinguish the faces of drivers staring at her while she was grappling on wet grass to fight off the slightly built rapist.

Detectives say that scores of motorists in Watts Lane would have seen the woman being punched and then dragged through a thick gorse bush. But despite police appeals for help no one has come forward.

Police last night set up a road block in Watts Lane at the same time as the woman's civil servant was attacked, but they described the reaction from home-coming commuters as "a very poor response".

Mrs Jan Kidd, who lives close to the cricket ground, left work early yesterday to walk

The Chislehurst attack comes after a number of incidents this year when the public have apparently ignored the struggles or cries of victims. Just over a month ago, drivers stuck in a traffic jam on a south London road ignored a boy aged 13 as he struggled with an attacker who abducted and raped him. In August, passengers on the London Underground ignored the cries of a 24-year-old woman being kidnapped. Passengers, she said, looked away. After being forced on and off trains for four and a half hours she was raped. In March, in Wigan, a 15-year-old girl was raped in the town centre after passers-by ignored her pleas.

her dog in daylight. She said: "I cannot believe that no one lifted a finger. They should be ashamed of themselves. Nobody wants to get involved, which is appalling. How can any woman feel safe?"

Gordon Westley, 73, a retired Ministry of Defence official living in the area, said: "It's an indictment of the way we live that people choose to look the other way. At my age if I saw what must have been an obvious beating of a woman you would step in. This should shame us all."

Detectives were reluctant to condemn those who drove past, saying the public were increasingly afraid to intervene for fear of being attacked or knifed themselves, or finding they faced legal action.

Detective Inspector Dave Gaywood, who is leading the hunt for the rapist, said: "You would like to think if someone saw such an attack they would have phoned the police or intervened in some way. Who knows, if someone had got out of that car that young woman

might not have been raped."

The attacked woman told police yesterday how during her ordeal she made a conscious decision to remember every detail about the man, who had threatened that he had a knife and would kill her if she did not stop screaming.

She described him as aged 28-33, white, about 5ft 7in tall, thin, well dressed, clean shaven and well spoken with a London accent. He was wearing an expensive black leather jacket and black trousers and she remembers "he smelt very clean".

The woman had taken her usual 6.08pm train from Charing Cross to Chislehurst, arriving sat about 6.50. She was ten minutes into her 25-minute walk home carrying two heavy supermarket carrier bags when she felt a man grab her hair and try to steal her shoulder bag.

She turned and stared at him, but he punched her hard in the face three or four times. The woman said they fought and struggled on the pavement for as much as five minutes until the assailant pushed a 3in metal object into her mouth and knocked her to the ground, repeatedly kicking her in the face and body.

He then pulled her through a thick 5ft high gorse hedge, which must have left him with cuts. After raping her he calmly emptied her purse onto the grass and took money and credit cards, repeating his warning that he would stab and kill her if she tried to escape or shout for help.

On the other side of the hedge rush-hour traffic was at a standstill on Watts Lane and cars approaching the mini roundabout would have had a clear view.

After the attack, the woman flagged down a woman motorist, who drove her to Chislehurst police station. The driver then left and would only give her name as Maureen.



Nick Banks, left, and Russell Senior, of Pulp, with a model of the building, designed as a pair of drums

It's only rock and roll, but will they really like it in Sheffield?

AT FIRST glance, Sheffield's pedigree as a citadel full of muses setting the world's front pages might be slightly limited: Joe Cocker, long-haired heavy metal band Def Leppard and indie's flavour-of-the-month The Longpigs do not a Memphis make.

Manchester has kicked out musical prodigies on a regular basis - New Order, Happy Mondays, The Smiths, Simply Red and the Bee Gees. London is where everyone ends up. And Hay-on-Wye is prettier. I mean, no one ever ran away from home to the glittering lights of Sheffield.

And besides, just how horrible is the idea of a rock museum? Youth's febrile kick isn't meant to be pinned down under glass, catharsis cannot be catalogued, and cool isn't something that a



It might not be on Route 66 but when it comes to rock, Caitlin Moran finds Sheffield does have something to sing about

display of old rockers' trunks can adequately convey.

Pop pilgrimages - something that rock museums presumably aspire to cater for - are far too personal for that. The first time I ran away from home for rock'n'roll, me and a friend headed for Aberystwyth, and the beach where the late, unlamented prog rock band Levitation first took acid.

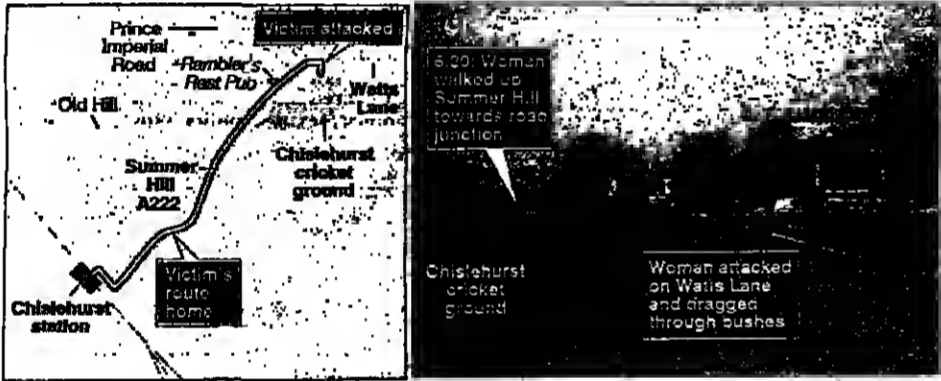
We only got as far as Shrewsbury before the band broke up and we realised that they were overrated anyway. But there is still

Marc Bolan's tree in Richmond, the Beatles' pub (the Grapes next to the Cavern) and Joy Division's Ian Curtis's grave in Manchester for those days when youths just want to have a wallow in pop's sticky-sweet nostalgia. However Sheffield does have some arguments in its favour. It has a secret pop history that deserves to be more widely promoted: there is a strong case to be made for local avant-gardists Cabaret Voltaire having invented the influential Detroit Techno movement. ABC's

"Lexico of Love" regenerated pop when punk and New Wave had salfied its good name, and The Human League kickstarted the synth-pop scene that spawned The Pet Shop Boys, Erasure, New Order and, of course, Pulp.

And it is with Pulp that Sheffield's Rock Museum holds its ace. If the powers that be have an atom of sense, they will make Jarvis Cocker head curator, and allow him to fill it with Brynlyn Y-froofs; photographs of dogs "doing it" on central reservations (a recurrent lyrical obsession); displays of "NHS glasses in rock"; and plaster casts of Cocker's extraordinary loof fingers. And maybe there the spirit of a rock museum will finally come to life.

Caitlin Moran, page 31



Too busy, too scared or too anxious to get home

By DANIEL MCGRODY

YESTERDAY rush-hour motorists were too busy trying to cope with the traffic jam at the mini-roundabout by Chislehurst Cricket Club to pay attention to police hunting the rapist who attacked a civil servant 48 hours earlier.

Cars converged from five roads into one of south London's most notorious bottlenecks. Staring ahead, drivers ignored the steady procession of homecoming commuters who walked up the steep Summer Hill from Chislehurst station, moving faster than the stalled traffic.

A senior detective said last night: "Chivalry is dead, I'm afraid. The sign of the time is that no one sees, no one hears and no one cares. Everyone

looks the other way because they are too busy or too scared.

"They think if they intervene they might get knifed by some madman or end up facing a court summons themselves. But how can so many people, driving and walking, ignore a woman being punched and kicked and screaming for five minutes?"

As the victim walked up Summer Hill carrying two heavy supermarket bags, she would have passed the brightly-lit entrances to two private estates of news houses and detached properties. She would have quickened her step past woodlands and glanced down at the Christmas decorations festooning the Rambler's Rest pub before crossing the stationary traffic and heading down Watts Lane

alongside the cricket pitch.

Cars idling on the hill give their drivers an uninterrupted view of the pitch. The victim had walked only 20 yards along Watts Lane, clearly lit by small white street lamps, when she was attacked from behind. There are no houses here but the pavement is narrow, with barely enough room for two people to pass, let alone struggle for five minutes.

Until this week, Chislehurst has thought of itself as a close community. Each street boasts a Neighbourhood Watch and there are self-help organisations for working residents and for the many retired people who live here. But nobody who walked the street came to rescue the rape victim.

Conservative spin doctors bemoan trend of confessional interviews

By ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TORY politicians have been warned against confessional interviews after Tony Blair became the latest political heavyweight to be tripped up by his past. Conservative Central Office could scarcely conceal its glee after Mr Blair's account of the day he played truant on a plane bound for the Bahamas was instantly contradicted by his father.

The Labour leader is the latest in a long line of politicians to try to exploit their family misfortunes only to see the strategy backfire. Only yesterday John Major's attempt to woo women voters backfired when his claim in an interview in *Good Housekeeping*, that he called his wife "Little Grub", was denied by Mrs Major. "We don't have nicknames for each other. What rubbish," she said.

Tory spin doctors have now intervened. Politicians used to be afraid of being embarrassed by the antics of their children. But now the roles have reversed. "We simply cannot have what appear to be nice stories about their domestic life being ripped to shreds by their own relatives the next day," said one. "It makes politicians look silly if they cannot even get their stories squared first with their family. We will not institute formal advice. But when we sit in on future interviews we will steer questions well away from their past. Their answers have an irritating habit of going wrong."

Mr Blair joined in the first time this year with his own poignant anecdotes about the impact of his father's illness on his childhood.



Norman Major: denied being called Mrs Grub

Friends believe the success of the speech encouraged him to break his silence on the attempt to flee the terrors of his public school on a charter flight to the Bahamas in 1966.

Be safe, be mean with the Scotch

By JEREMY LAURANCE

THE cheapest brands of whisky may be the best buy, scientists have discovered. The classier the malt the higher the level of cancer-causing chemicals it contains.

All whisky contains polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, but the levels contained in different brands can vary 14-fold. Tests on 18 brands, reported in *The Lancet*, showed that the Scottish malt whisky Laphroaig, had the most at 47.5 nanograms per litre and an American bourbon, Old Overholt, the least at 3.4. Overall, malt whiskies had the highest levels and Irish whiskies the lowest.

Drinking whisky is known to increase the risk of cancers of the mouth, gullet and lower bowel, but researchers at the Department of Health, Risk and Toxicology at the University of Manchester, who conducted the tests, say that concentrations of aromatic hydrocarbon are unlikely to explain this.

But his father, Leo, 73, said: "He only made it to the airport."

The confusion about the teenage runaway's flight of fancy has led to one tabloid newspaper to try to induce the air stewardess to come forward, who escorted the young stowaway off the charter flight at Newcastle Airport, with the offer of a free holiday on the sunshine island. Labour is taking a more relaxed view. But one of the party's spin doctors said: "We may insist they rigorously check the facts before they bark on about childhood adventures which can be checked."

John Major is the only man among six candidates nominated for the Radio 4 Today programme's News Personality of the Year. The winner will be announced on Friday.

Leading article, page 17

Make someone happy this Christmas

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Rivals squabble as universities bid for share of £700m

Cambridge disputes Oxford's supremacy in research ratings

By JOHN O'LEARY AND DAVID CHARTER

OXFORD and Cambridge were both claiming victory yesterday in the four-yearly university research ratings, which influence the distribution of £700 million of government money.

The £2 million exercise measured the quality of research in 69 different subjects, but the complex ratings system left the two universities so close that the outcome varied according to the method of calculation chosen.

Universities and colleges were allowed to decide how many of their staff should have their work examined. Oxford, by entering 91 per cent of its academics, triumphed among those entered for assessment, but Cambridge, which entered 98 per cent, had the best score when all staff were taken into account.

An Oxford spokesman said the university had omitted a number of staff whose duties were primarily administrative. "We followed the rules of the exercise and used our own best judgment." At Cambridge, a spokeswoman said the university regarded itself as recording the highest score, which would be demonstrated when research budgets were allocated.

The London School of Economics, which had been lobbying the higher education funding councils for three months to publish official league tables, produced its own analysis, claiming second place, with Cambridge first and Oxford third.

The funding councils, which



Fender: said standards were improving everywhere

commissioned 60 panels of experts to produce the ratings, said the assessments were not designed to compile a single table.

Brian Fender, chief executive of the Higher Education Funding Council for England, said the assessments showed that the standard of research was improving everywhere. The number of top-rated departments had risen substantially and far more new universities were doing research of national excellence.

Professor Fender said: "I would say to those who fund research, including the Government, 'We have got a very healthy base, a lot of capacity for improvement has been demonstrated. Why don't we build on that?'"

Ivor Crewe, Vice-Chancellor of Essex University, said that some of the smaller research-orientated

universities, such as Essex, York, Sussex and Lancaster, had done exceptionally well. "There is clearly no case for a small super league of research-based universities."

Although no new universities and colleges reached the new top grade, denoting a majority of research of international excellence, nine of their departments were in the next category. Among them, the University of Westminster, the birthplace of media studies, was celebrating its second successive grade five for research.

Nicholas Garnham, director of the Centre for Communication and Information Studies, said: "We think that good teaching and good research go together." The work assessed included research into cross-media ownership, copyright, the history of cinema and coverage of scandals.

The University of Portsmouth, which entered one scholar in the Slavonic and East European Languages assessment, earned a grade five. Ralph Cleminson, currently on a two-year sabbatical and working at the Central European University in Budapest, Hungary, discovered the oldest-known Slovakian Church manuscript last year.

Peter Skehan, Professor of English language teaching at Thames Valley University, where linguistics gained a five, said the grading would help it to attract high-calibre students. Part of the research was into language use within multiethnic communities in Britain.

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Education, page 33

RESEARCH RATINGS

University	No of assessed	% assessed	Rating
Oxford	1610	91	5.67
Cambridge	1553	98	5.49
Imperial Col, Lon	770	90	5.28
University Col Lon	1219	91	5.22
UMIST	432	87	5.00
Bath	394	90	5.24
Warwick	780	93	5.51
Lancaster	494	92	5.49
York	453	91	5.48
Essex	288	88	4.44
Sussex	593	85	5.35
Edinburgh	1291	94	5.23
Sheffield	898	97	5.22
Wales, Cardiff	673	86	5.22
St Andrews	319	88	5.26
Cardiff	211	45	5.22
Durham	547	88	5.21
Sheffield Hallam	388	84	5.22
Southampton	317	82	5.19
Royal Holloway, Lon	281	83	5.18
SCAS	135	85	5.24
King's Col Lon	725	85	5.16
Manchester	1398	91	5.11
Birmingham	1152	95	5.08
Leeds	1100	88	5.08
Goldsmiths College	229	81	5.02
East Anglia	419	74	4.51
Sheffield Hallam	388	78	4.37
Nottingham	942	83	4.25
Loughborough	388	44	3.23
Blackburn Col, Lon	229	93	4.27
Reading	1030	88	4.26
Gloucester	1076	75	4.72
Heriot-Watt	238	70	4.76
Aston	157	83	4.73
Liverpool	82	67	4.74
Salford	249	88	4.73
Newcastle-up-Tyne	80	97	4.72
Bradford	271	78	4.72
Leicester	622	80	4.67
Queen Mary & Westfield	76	75	4.59
Strathclyde	698	74	4.57
Open University	444	52	4.58
Wales, Swansea	445	81	4.54
Wales, Bangor	419	74	4.54
Bristol	444	88	4.44
Ul Col of N Wales	200	88	4.33
Greenwich	182	82	4.32
Keble	378	88	4.32
Brunel	278	78	4.28
Aberdeen	328	84	4.28
Ulster	496	55	4.18
Hull	484	88	4.03
Wales, Aberystwyth	324	64	3.93
Sheffield Hallam	274	28	3.58
Wales, Lampeter	182	44	3.51
Westminster	189	29	3.32
Nottingham Trent	245	31	3.20
Greenwich	182	27	3.20
Hertfordshire	201	26	3.18
South Bank	172	22	3.14
Manchester Met	442	34	2.97
Sunderland	145	28	2.87
Robert Gordon	138	38	2.84
Lough Jelen Moore	282	36	2.79
Glasgow	89	17	2.75
East London	189	38	2.71
North London	181	37	2.71
Thames Valley	47	10	2.70
Middlesex	309	43	2.68
Northumbria	28	28	2.68
De Montfort	515	52	2.67
Glasgow Caledonian	188	31	2.63
Lincoln	19	21	2.61
Leeds Metropolitan	151	23	2.62
Central Lancashire	123	22	2.61
Huddersfield	44	22	2.61
Kingston	192	33	2.52
Cowley	210	34	2.49
Wales, Llanelli	36	30	2.45
Wales, Newport	35	19	2.40
Staffordshire	245	30	2.20
Loughborough	123	36	2.20
London Guildhall	123	26	2.19
Durham	70	18	2.19
Anglia	127	22	2.08
Bournemouth	86	19	2.00
Aberystwyth	76	35	1.98
Central England	288	34	1.97
Wolverhampton	206	27	1.79
Teesdale	181	32	1.73
Luton	128	28	1.71

Departments were assessed on a separate scale. The rating gives the average score for the staff assessed.



The Ford Iveco lorry that police believe was used by the IRA

Police seek lorry and fear IRA could strike at any time

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A LORRY used by IRA terrorists to move bomb-making material is being hunted by Scotland Yard's Anti-Terrorist Branch. Detectives have also searched a transport yard north of London where the 7.7-tonne Ford Iveco lorry may have been kept.

Yesterday Sir Paul Condon, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, and Commander John Griev, head of the Anti-Terrorist Branch, said that the IRA could strike on the mainland at any time. Sir Paul said that attacks could involve anything from bombs to incendiary devices and targets could include the new year sales.

"We are on a high state of alert, not just because of Christmas but because in recent years the IRA has mounted a whole range of incidents," he said. A multimillion-pound security operation involving covert operations and patrols was in place.

Mr Griev said he did not believe that the missing vehicle was about to be used to house a bomb but that it had been used to transport bomb-making material. Police believe that the lorry, probably a C or D registration, was first used by the IRA in February when the ceasefire collapsed with the attack on South Quay, east London, in which two people died. The vehicle is described as having a white body with blue curtains on the side. The bars under the platform and the bumper are red and the cab has faded signwriting on the side. The IRA would have needed transport of considerable size to

move the tonnes of chemicals it used in the Docklands bomb and the attack on Manchester in June. The lorry was seen in north London in June and July. So far police have been unable to trace it and say it could be parked somewhere. It may have been lent or hired to someone unwittingly acting for the terrorists.

Earlier this week police began to search the transport yard which they are certain was used by the terrorists this summer to store material and to work on planned attacks. The Anti-Terrorist Branch was led to the yard, close to the M25 junction at South Mimms, by a tip from the public. The owner of the yard had no idea what was happening. The terrorists had masqueraded as a commercial company.

Last night John Hume, the leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, said that a restoration of the IRA ceasefire was still possible. He said he was absolutely convinced that the renewed IRA campaign would stop if the Prime Minister responded positively to his proposals aimed at clearing the way for Sinn Fein's early admission to talks on Northern Ireland's future.

Yesterday Mr Hume discussed the Northern Ireland peace process with five loyalist prisoners in the Maze. He said the discussions had been "very valuable" and constructive and that the prisoners had accepted his assurances that there would be no behind-the-scenes deals with the British Government.

Marriage is added to schools' moral code

By DAVID CHARTER

CHILDREN will be urged, in a proposed moral code for schools, to support marriage. It was announced yesterday. The change follows criticism that the first draft of a government guide did too little to support traditional family life.

Nick Tate, chief executive of the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, said that the statement on marriage was being added to a section on society. It called on children to "support marriage as the traditional form of the family, while recognising that the love and commitment required for a secure and happy childhood can be found in families of other kinds".

The compromise was aimed at satisfying teachers who said during consultation that society was so diverse that schools could not maintain that there was only one way to bring up children.

When the first draft was issued there were complaints from within the National Forum for Values in Education and the Community, the body set up by Mr Tate to write the code. The criticisms followed the murder of the London head teacher Philip Lawrence and the disclosure of public disquiet by a poll carried out for the forum. Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, was among those who called for the original wording on the family to be strengthened.

The change has failed to satisfy Guy Horden, one of five members of the 150-strong forum who campaigned for a separate section promoting family life. He said the proposals drew no distinction between marriage and cohabitation or between heterosexual and homosexual relationships.

"Using the word 'traditional' for marriage suggests it refers to what has happened in the past," he said. "It would have been better to support marriage as the ideal."

Announcing the outcome of consultation on the code, Mr Tate said that it would not be imposed but, if approved by ministers in February, schools would be encouraged to adopt it as a basis for lessons. A strong moral code, he added, was a key part of the curriculum in Far Eastern countries where children performed better in mathematics and science.

A MORI poll of nearly 1,500 adults for the consultation examined the importance of law and order and the police (backed by 9 per cent), discipline in schools and the role of teachers (8 per cent), and the family (8 per cent).

Minister attacks college's £250 'bounty' for new students as waste of money

By DAVID CHARTER

A COLLEGE competing for students with local sixth forms has been criticised by the Government for offering £250 to potential recruits. Trowbridge College in Wiltshire says its bursary scheme is designed to discourage students from dropping out, but local schools claim it is a bribe and James Paice, the Education Minister responsible for

further education, called it a waste of money. He said he did not welcome the scheme, although he acknowledged that legislation allowed colleges to offer bursaries.

Inducements being offered by further education colleges range from £1,200 for high-flyers by Tescote College to driving lessons by Kendal College and free trips to Disneyland Paris by Walsall College of Arts and Technology. In a letter to David Faber, the

Westbury MP, Mr Paice said: "I would not wish to discourage healthy rivalry which can drive up standards. However, this sort of scheme may lead to wasteful competition if other institutions attempt to match or top the incentives."

George Bright, the principal, said the offer had been made to attract and keep students when the college restarted A-level teaching after a three-year break.

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BBC plans to capture 'breath' for TV series

BBC plans to capture dying breath for TV series

By RUSSELL JENKINS

THE BBC is considering filming the last moments of a terminally ill man or woman as part of a series of seven programmes charting human life from the cradle to the grave.

Researchers have begun approaching very old people and may ask them whether they can record their dying breath in the final episode of *The Human Body*, to be shown in 1998.

MPs yesterday described the idea as "macabre" and "beyond belief". The National Viewers and Listeners' Association warned the BBC to tread carefully over such sensitive ground.

It is the second time that the BBC has set out to break one of the last taboos in broadcasting — filming the moment of death — other than as part of film footage in a news bulletin. Last year more than 300 MPs signed a Commons motion protesting at the BBC's decision to broadcast the world's first televised mercy killing. The programme, *Death on Request*, screened on BBC 2, showed a doctor administering a fatal injection to a 63-year-old man suffering from chronic motor neurone disease.

The Human Body, which follows the seven ages of man and includes scenes covering conception through to death, is likely to cause a similar controversy. Conception will be illustrated in strictly biological terms.

A BBC spokeswoman said that the idea of filming the "moment of death" was under consideration but emphasised that nothing had yet been decided. The series, described as a serious scientific documentary, is likely to be broadcast after 9pm. The spokeswoman said: "While it

is too early to say what is going to form the very last programme, anything we do will adhere to strict ethical guidelines. We hope to work with hospitals which conduct their own research into various stages of those seven ages themselves. There is no question of anyone appearing on a programme without giving their permission. The series itself is groundbreaking. We hope it will be informative and educational and, of course, original."

Jana Bennett, BBC head of science, said in a statement: "We have not filmed anyone's death and would not do so without the full consent of all concerned. Neither would we consider showing the moment of death without the greatest respect for the sensibilities of viewers."

Ann Winterton, Conservative MP for Congleton, one of the signatories of the earlier Commons motion, said she hoped that hospitals would refuse to work with the production team. The moment of death was essentially private and to be shared only with close family, she said.

Mrs Winterton added: "I cannot think of a word other than macabre to describe this. It is beyond belief that responsible programme-makers would wish to present this kind of material. It would be deeply upsetting for the relatives and the person dying. It is gratuitous and unnecessary."

Mary Whitehouse, the founder of the National Viewers and Listeners' Association, said: "It is a subject you would have thought would never be shown on television. Death in fictional programmes is bad enough but to show it in real life? It would have to be done with the utmost delicacy."



Falling in: 102 Gurkhas were welcomed into the undermanned 2nd Battalion The Parachute Regiment yesterday by Lieutenant-General New Pike, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Land Command. The transfer is a reprieve for the Gurkhas, who faced the threat of redundancy

Ears wax and wane as men grow old

By JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

MEN'S ears grow and shrink as they age, scientists have discovered. Old men have larger ears than younger ones but the latest research shows that the changes occur in seven-year cycles.

Researchers believe that the nose, the chin and the fingers could also follow the same pattern. Two Dutch scientists spotted the rhythmic changes when they compared the sizes of ears belonging to 200 British men aged between 30 and 93. The men had had their ears measured for an earlier study that showed that older men have larger ears.

Dr Jos Verhulst of the Louis Bolk Institute in Driebergen, The Netherlands, who conducted the study published in the *British Medical Journal*, said the pattern mirrored the development of the skull. Earlier research by him, to be published shortly, showed that the fusion of the plates of the skull, causing the sutures between them to fade, follows the same seven-year pattern.

"I have no idea why it should happen this way," he said. "But we now have two major structures showing this periodicity. It suggests that other parts of the body could follow the same pattern."

The idea of a seven-year rhythm in human development goes back to ancient Greece. It was first mentioned by Pythagoras and it was later taken up by Aristotle. In the modern world it has attracted less attention but in many countries, as in Britain until the 1960s, the age of majority is 21 (three times seven).

People who regularly visit theatres, cinemas or concerts live longer than those who do not, according to Swedish researchers. They believe that cultural stimulation may boost the immune system.

Doctors report that a man needed hospital treatment after blowing up 20 balloons in an hour. Tests showed that the pressure needed to inflate them was twice that carrying a risk of lung damage.

Why drinking and walking home can be fatal



Dr Thomas Stuttaford

A CORONER returned a verdict of accidental death this week at the inquest of Kevin Ward, a 41-year-old company director from Cheddar, Somerset. Mr Ward collapsed and died after drinking excessively during a friend's birthday celebration in November.

After the drinking, Mr Ward decided to walk home on a bitterly cold night. He had not gone far when he stumbled and fell. Tired and drunk, Mr Ward went to sleep in the road. Eventually his snoring woke a nearby householder,

but it was too late. Mr Ward died from alcohol poisoning and hypothermia. Blood tests showed that the dead man's alcohol level was 400 milligrams per 100 millilitres of blood — five times greater than the drink

blood, providing they were drinking at a steady rate, would probably have had about 22 drinks, when a drink is measured at a pub's standard tot of whisky, or a half a pint of beer. Mr Ward had been drinking both.

Death from the combination of hypothermia and alcohol is not common in this country but in Tzarist Russia, Mr Ward's fate would have been relatively common. At that time Russian innkeepers also acted as pawnbrokers, and would take the drinker's greatcoat as surety.

Contrary to popular belief,

anyone who has been drinking chills much more rapidly than when they are sober. A drink may make a person feel warmer, but they lose their body temperature faster as the alcohol causes the blood vessels in the skin to dilate. The improved skin circulation results in a greater amount of blood being exposed to the chilling elements.

The contents of the hip flask should only be enjoyed by those who are warm, well wrapped up, and in full possession of their faculties.

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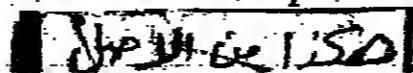
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Briton petitions Mandela for justice over son's death

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

THE father of a 28-year-old Briton killed by a traffic police officer in a KwaZulu/Natal coastal resort has written to President Mandela to highlight his son's case.

The Bradley family has discovered that the traffic officer allegedly responsible has not been suspended from duty despite being charged with culpable homicide, and the officer investigating the case is said to have been threatened.

John Bradley wrote to ask President Mandela to ensure that justice is done regarding the death of his son Kevin on November 24. Mr Bradley, who flew to South Africa with his wife to identify the body, said he wanted to make higher authorities aware of the case.

Five days before his death, Kevin Bradley had returned to South Africa to make arrangements for his marriage to Antoinette La Grange. The couple, who met seven years ago while working for a hotel and casino group, had set up home in Margate on the region's southern coast and were running a casino there.

On the night of her fiancé's death Miss La Grange had received a call from the casino asking that Kevin go in to help. He was waiting at traffic lights on his motorbike when an official traffic car, travelling fast, hit a stationary car in the next lane then rebounded and hit his motorbike, catapulting him 40 metres through the air. He died about



Antoinette La Grange, fiancée of the dead man



11 hours later in hospital after suffering a brain haemorrhage.

It was later alleged that blood samples taken from the off-duty traffic policeman, Pierre du Plessis, 24, indicated

an alcohol level higher than that permitted by law. He was charged with culpable homicide but released on bail of 600 rand. Margate council, his employer since 1993, defended its decision not to suspend him on the ground that this would be tantamount to an admission of guilt.

Investigations by *The Times* have also revealed that Mr du Plessis is facing a charge of intent to cause grievous bodily harm relating to an incident in December last year when he was accused of being involved in beating up four Johannesburg students in Margate.

That case is due in court in February. The pre-trial hearing into Mr Bradley's death is scheduled for January 13.

Simon Bradley, the dead man's brother, said his father had been in contact with his MP, John Butterfill (C, Bournemouth W), who had promised to take up the case with the Foreign Office.

A spokesman in President Mandela's office said that the matter would be referred to the Department of Foreign Affairs and on to other departments if necessary.

A man has been arrested in connection with the hijacking of two British tourists in the Transkei by a gang posing as police. The tourists were robbed and stripped at the roadside. Timothy Frost and Emma Isherwood also had their car, worth £22,000, taken.



Kevin Bradley, who died after his stationary motorbike was hit at traffic lights

Farmers trot out 3m fresh turkeys

BY ELENOR SALMOND

MOST supermarkets start selling their fresh turkeys today and the most popular price, at £2.59 a kilogram, is rather more expensive than last year. Some three million birds will be on sale within the next four days, though ten million households will buy cheaper, frozen birds, despite the verdict of a recent tasting organised by *The Times*, whose panel came out firmly in favour of fresh.

Promotions include: Asda: garlic king prawns £3.49 for 300g, pork easy-carve leg joint £3.49, tiramisu (12-14 portions) £3.49 for 950g. Budgens: Scottish smoked salmon £6.99 for 400g, Cooks Town large gammon joint, smoked/unsmoked, £4.99 per kg, clementines £1.19 kg. Co-op: frozen North Atlantic prawns £2.79 for 400g, fresh topside or silverside of beef £1.78 lb, frozen roast potatoes £1.39 for 1.36 kg, fresh cream truffles £1.19 for 397g.

WEEKEND SHOPPING

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Marks & Spencer: frozen cocktail prawns £2.99 for 400g, six salmon fillets £7.99 for frozen and £8.99 for fresh, 12 profiteroles £1.69. Safeway: Lincolnshire pork sausages £1.25 for 45g, honey roast water-thin ham £2.69 for 750g, half gammon on the bone unsmoked £2.62 kg, six deep-fried mince pies 69p.

Sainsbury's: smoked salmon £6.95 for 400g, leg of lamb £5.99/kg, Connoisseur Christmas pudding £4.49 lb, luxury mincecandy £1.19 for 411g. Somerfield: avocados 22p each, fresh whole turkey £2.59 kg, rolled sirloin of beef £8.35 kg, coleslaw 99p kg, sticky toffee pavlova £1.89 337g.

Tesco: rolled leg of pork £2.99 kg, whole salmon (2 lb-10 lb) £1.69 kg, white potatoes 99p 5 kg, sliced runner beans £1.29 for 200g, Conference pears £1.69 for 2 kg. Waitrose: six boneless chicken breasts £6.49, pork chipolatas 69p for 227g, stuffed green olives 99p, for 340g, 2 litres dairy vanilla ice cream £1.99, Belgian chocolate nut truffles/bouchées £2.89.

Founder of charity faces jail

Susan Howe, founder of the Cot Death Society, faces jail after being found guilty of stealing thousands of pounds from the society.

Liverpool Crown Court was told that Howe, 43, from Formby, Merseyside, used a concealed "welfare account" to pay donations of £36,372 into bank accounts belonging to her and her partner, Kevin Sullivan, 40. He was acquitted last week of the same charges. Howe will be sentenced on January 17.

Fiancée quizzed

Murder squad detectives were questioning the fiancée of Lee Harvey, 25, who was stabbed to death in an alleged "road rage" incident close to their home in Hereford and Worcester. Police arrested Tracie Andrews, 27, two weeks ago but she was admitted to hospital and they were unable to interview her.

Duchess mourns

The Duchess of York joined her father, Major Ronald Ferguson, and other members of her family at the funeral of her grandmother, Lady Elmhirst, at All Saints Church in Dunmer, Hampshire. Lady Elmhirst, who was 88, died last week after a long illness. The Duchess read the lesson at the service.

Taxman case

David Shamoon, 66, a businessman, was cleared of providing a holiday for Michael Alcock, an Inland Revenue inspector, in return for tax favours. Two corruption charges against Mr Alcock, 47, were also dropped. He denies 11 similar charges. The case, at the Old Bailey, was adjourned until January 2.

Serb baby well

Leon Ba, the Serbian baby who has had heart surgery funded by a public appeal, is said to be "doing fine" in hospital. The four-month-old boy had a three-hour operation at the Bristol Royal Hospital for Sick Children to repair two holes in his heart. Nearly £1,000 was raised to pay for his treatment.

Lightning death

A farm worker died instantly when lightning struck his gold ockleace. Paul Maroney, 20, was on a tractor trailer in West Auckland when the bolt struck in July. The tractor "jumped" and his shoes were blown off. An inquest jury at Darlington, Co Durham, returned a verdict of accidental death.

Post haste

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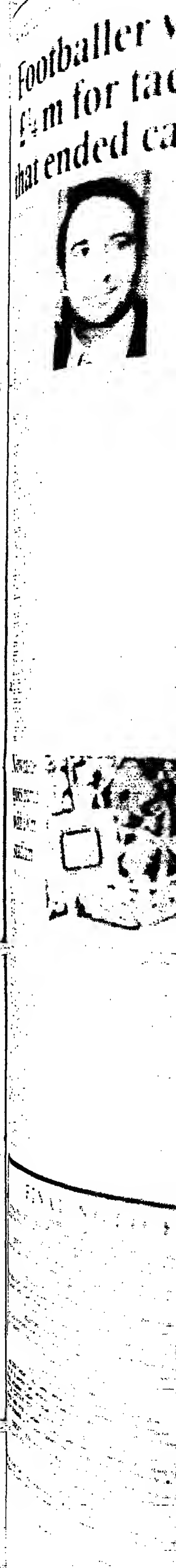
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Award may set precedent in sport

Footballer wins £1.4 m for tackle that ended career

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A FOOTBALLER was awarded an estimated £250,000 damages in the High Court yesterday over an opponent's high tackle which broke his right leg and ended his career.

The award to Brian McCord, a former Stockport County player, is believed to be the first of its kind for injuries suffered on the field and could have a significant impact on all sports.

Mr Justice Ian Kennedy found that the Swansea City captain, John Cornforth, had made an error when challenging McCord for a loose ball during a game in Swansea in March 1993.

After the case Mr McCord, 28, said: "I am delighted with the judgment. I have been on income support since the accident and I was 100 per cent sure taking this action was the right thing to do. I will now be able to repay all the friends who have helped me get by and perhaps buy a few Christmas presents. But I would much rather that my career had been left intact."

The judge said that Mr Cornforth's tackle, in which he slid down on one leg with his right foot over the ball as the two players closed for a 50-50 challenge, was "an error which was inconsistent with his taking reasonable care" towards his opponent.

"But it does not follow that those who play football do not consent to the risk of injury. There are very few professional footballers who assert that they have never fallen below the standards expected of them and if they do they are not to be believed."

Mr McCord, who is studying to become a physiotherapist, was awarded an



McCord: career ended by clash which broke his leg

sional footballer and had left school aged 15 to sign as an apprentice with Derby County. He played for Derby, but was transferred to Barnsley and in 1992 signed for Stockport.

He told the judge: "I don't think there has been a day gone by when I don't think about the game and I miss it tremendously."

His counsel, Jonathan Crystal, said Mr McCord was entitled to damages from Mr Cornforth and Swansea City for pain and injury and loss of income because the tackle was "extremely violent and illegal".

Walter Williams, a policeman who was the match assessor for the Football League, said that in his view the tackle was among the worst three he had seen.

The judge said he had adopted the stance that an "ordinary, reasonable" spectator would take. He could understand the many witnesses who said Mr Cornforth was playing the man and not the ball but "that was not my conclusion", particularly having heard about his good reputation. However, he ruled that the tackle was "inconsistent" with taking reasonable care and it was one occasion when his skill "deserted him".

Gordon Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, said the case posed a dilemma. The PFA could ignore neither a player's rights to go to law nor the defendant being left isolated if the club's insurers refused to take responsibility.

"We have looked at an arbitration method between players to avoid going to court and at no-fault insurance schemes but neither has proved possible."

immediate interim payment of £50,000 and the balance will be decided at a hearing in the New Year. John England, his solicitor, said the judgment was a landmark because there was no system for players to obtain compensation for injuries received during games.

He said: "It is a very important judgment which will have great ramifications throughout all professional sports. I believe it is time for the sporting bodies to devise some system of compensation without redress to the courts."

At a hearing last month, Mr McCord said that he assumed when he saw Mr Cornforth approaching that there would be a block tackle, when two players arrive at the ball at the same time. He added: "I didn't take my eye off the ball and I saw Mr Cornforth approach and as I made contact with the ball his leg was resting above the ball and the next thing I knew I saw my grossly deformed right leg."

Mr McCord, from Chad-den, Derby, said he had always wanted to be a profes-



Gillian Baverstock with Ben McCosker, John Lee, Olivia Hallinan and Vicky Taylor, who are among those who will share the roles

Five go on stage to sing Enid Blyton's praises

By ALAN HAMILTON

GOSH, everybody, look! A secret passage at the back of a North London pub leading to an audition - how exciting! Though regarded as politically incorrect by some, Enid Blyton's Famous Five are alive and well and about to go on a national tour in a musical.

Yesterday Dan Crawford, the director, made his selection from nearly 800 young hopefuls for the parts of Julian the leader, George the tomboy, the irrepressible Dick and the sweetly feminine Anne. Timmy,

the fifth member of the gang, will be played by Ben, a border collie, with two underdogs in case he falls sick.

According to Crawford, the continuing appeal of stories regarded by many as outdated and a bad influence is that they are cracking good yarns. "Enid Blyton was a very good writer and storyteller, and storytelling is three quarters of the secret of success."

The successful auditioners agreed. John Lee, an old trouper of 14 who appeared in the title role of *Oliver!* at the London Palladium and who is cast as Julian, thought the archaic

language, with its goshes, spiffings and lashings of ginger beer, helped to establish an atmosphere of adventure.

She dismisses reports, many originating from her younger sister, that Blyton was a difficult mother who disliked children. "I had an excellent relationship with her throughout her life. I do not agree with my sister's analysis of our childhood."

Producers of *The Famous Five!*, which opens in Leeds in February, were surprised to find that at least eight out of ten of those auditioned were already Blyton fans. To be weaned on Noddy, it appears, is to be hooked for life.

Newcastle goes public with £90m stadium

By PAUL WILKINSON

PLANS for a controversial £90 million sports complex based on Newcastle United Football Club were unveiled yesterday.

The scheme will be funded from a £160 million stock market flotation, details of which will be announced next month and which will make the Premiership club the largest publicly quoted football business after Manchester United.

Conservationists immediately attacked the plans for a 55,000-seat glass-and-sandstone stadium on greenbelt land close to the existing ground at St James's Park. Both sides accept that the planned development of 50 acres at Castle Leazes and Leazes Park, on the edge of the city centre, will probably result in a public inquiry. Dolly Potter, chairman of Friends of



A plan of the proposed new stadium in Leazes Park. The club's existing site, right, will become an arena

Leazes Park, said: "They are the most important pieces of open space close to the city centre, not just for people living around there but for people working nearby. If they are lost the centre of Newcastle would become a much less attractive area to live and work."

Announcing the project yesterday, Sir John Hall, Newcastle's chairman, said: "We are aware of the concerns of the objectors, but the views of our fans need to be considered too. A lot of fans cannot get into St James's Park."

The project has been conten-

tious ever since Sir John revealed his ideas for expanding the existing 36,500-seat ground to create a sporting club similar to those in Barcelona and Milan. His proposals include a new football stadium, the largest built in England since Wembley, and converting St James's Park into an arena with a 12,000-seat indoor athletics track, ice rink, offices and museum.

Earlier this year Sir John threatened to move the club out of the city if his plans were thwarted by council planners.

Sport, pages 36-40

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PEOPLES

P H O N E

Governors violated inmates' freedom of speech by trying to stop them protesting their innocence

Judge backs prisoners over interviews with media

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

A JUDGE ruled yesterday that restrictions on two murderers' access to the media were unlawful.

Mr Justice Latham allowed a challenge by the men, who contest their convictions, against rules on conversations with reporters. In a written judgment at the High Court, he said that a restriction stopping an inmate talking to a visiting journalist unless the writer undertook not to use material obtained was a curb on the right to free speech.

The judge overturned a decision by the former governor of Full Sutton top security jail near York that stopped the men receiving visits from journalists unless such an undertaking was given.

The judge said that the ban was not on the evidence, "justified as the minimum interference with the right of free speech". Mr Justice Latham said that an appropriate undertaking could be devised to restrict topics of conversation during prison visits.

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1989, and Michael O'Brien, convicted of murder and robbery in 1988, had challenged the ban made under prison service standing orders. Simms, who failed in an appeal in 1990, had begun corresponding with Bob Woffinden, a journalist interested in miscarriages of justice.

He began visiting Simms to discuss his case and the two men became friends. But after a report in a national newspaper, the mother of Helen McCourt, the murder victim, became distressed at the publicity, the judge said.

The governor at Full Sutton then required an undertaking from Mr Woffinden that he would no longer use material obtained during the visits for professional purposes. The governor at Long Lartin prison in Hereford and Worcester, where Simms is now an inmate, had confirmed that he required the same undertaking before visits would be allowed.

Mr Justice Latham said that in the second case O'Brien also protested his innocence and had written to many people and organisations to try to

interest them in his case. Karen Voisey, a journalist, visited him several times at Long Lartin, but in December 1995 she was asked to sign an undertaking not to use the visit for professional purposes. She refused and was turned away.

The Home Office said the undertakings required from the journalists were a result of "the normal application" of prison service standing orders on communications and there was no significant interference with the prisoners' right of free speech.

The judge said one of the reasons given for the ban was the prison service's responsibility for preventing the communication by a prisoner of material which might cause further distress to the families of the victims of crime, or the victims themselves. They were also concerned to restrict statements "likely to outrage the public at large".

The judge said in his 25-page ruling said: "There is no doubt that restrictions on visits are necessary for the proper regulation and management of prisons and for the treatment, discipline and control of inmates." But the courts had established that if the civil rights of an inmate were interfered with, then the law required it should be only minimum interference.

Michael Howard was given leave to appeal against the ruling, which the judge said concerned an important issue. A prison service spokeswoman said it was considering the judgment.

Mr Woffinden, author of a book, *Miscarriages of Justice*, described the ruling as "excellent - very good news for press freedom".

He added: "A lot of prisoners who have pressing concerns will now be able to inform the press about what those concerns are. It also means we will be able to behave more responsibly because we will be able to go and talk to all the people we need to talk to."

"A sense of justice and a sense of normality has been returned. The whole thing was totally illogical. The Home Office says prisoners can write to journalists but not talk to us in person. It's much more sensible for us to meet them in person and assess their bona fides for ourselves."

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DIY LITIGANTS OVERWHELM APPEAL COURT



A SHARP rise in the number of people resorting to law without the help of lawyers is causing "acute" problems for the Court of Appeal, the Master of the Rolls, Lord Woolf, said yesterday. One in three applications to the Court of Appeal's civil division is by someone acting without a lawyer, compared with one in ten in 1989-90.

To his review of the court's civil division for 1995-96, Lord Woolf said the number of cases has almost doubled, from 456 in 1991-92 to 809 in 1995-96. Ninety per cent of these applications (which include leave to appeal and other procedural matters) fail.

The Court of Appeal is already struggling with a record workload, which is being reduced by lords justices working overtime and special "crash courts". Lord Woolf notes: "The number of outstanding applications (2,795 compared with 1,652 in 1991-92) cannot be allowed to continue." In 70 per cent of cases, there is a 14-month wait before appeals are heard.

Even though judges had disposed of 2,590 applications this year compared with 1,448 in 1991-92, there were still 1,384 applications outstanding at the end of this year.

To tackle the problem, the Bar has set up a *pro bono* unit where barristers offer their services free to people with certain kinds of case and the Lord Chancellor's Department has provided extra funding for the Citizens Advice Bureau within the Royal Courts of Justice in the Strand.

Letters, page 17

Injustice commission lacks members with relevant experience

THE new body set up to investigate alleged miscarriages of justice has attracted criticism for having virtually no members with experience in this area.

The Criminal Cases Review Commission, which will take over the Home Secretary's task of deciding which cases are to be referred to the Court of Appeal, will be established on New Year's Day and will take on casework from the end of March. Although the 14-

strong commission contains a senior police officer and three lawyers with experience of prosecuting, there are no members with knowledge of criminal defence work.

The commission includes Fiona King, a former assistant chief crown prosecutor with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS); David Kyle, chief crown prosecutor in the central casework unit at the CPS; and John Knox, formerly a deputy director at the Serious

Claims of wrongful conviction are to be heard by prosecution lawyers and a senior policeman, but nobody with a criminal defence background, Frances Gibb reports

Fraud Office. Baden Skitt, Assistant Commissioner with the Metropolitan Police and former Chief Constable of Hertfordshire, is also a member.

Other lawyers who have

been chosen include Laurence Elks, legal consultant with the City law firm Nabarro Nathanson and previously a partner there for nine years acting in acquisitions and joint ventures; and Professor Leon-

ard Leigh, professor of criminal law at the London School of Economics.

Only Dr James MacKeith, a consultant forensic psychiatrist, has experience of miscarriage cases.

John Wadham, general secretary of the civil rights group Liberty, said yesterday: "We are disappointed with the list because we would have expected at least a minority of people to have some knowledge and experience of deal-

ing with miscarriage-of-justice cases."

He said there should have been a solicitor or barrister with experience of a miscarriage of justice case, or a campaigner, or "even someone who was wrongly convicted". He added: "You need to be really determined to try to unpick what went wrong in these cases and, without that, the commission won't succeed in its job. But I am happy to be proved wrong."

The other members, announced in a written Parliamentary answer by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, include two more who are legally qualified: John Leckey, Coroner for Greater Belfast since 1992, and Jill Gort, VAT tribunal chairman.

The remaining members are Karamjit Singh, a Civil Service Commissioner and former member of the Police Complaints Authority; Edward Weiss, chairman of the

Lloyds Syndicate Loss Reviews; Anthony Foster, former chief executive of ICI Chlorochemicals, and Barry Capon, recently retired chief executive of Norfolk County Council.

The commission will be chaired by Sir Frederick Crayford, a former vice-chancellor of Aston University. His appointment provoked criticism from lawyers earlier this year when it was discovered that he was high-ranking Freemason.

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Survival training equips dormice to face the wild



THE dormouse is disappearing so rapidly that soon the only survivor will be Lewis Carroll's comatose guest at the Mad Hatter's tea party. Immortalised in *Alice in Wonderland*, the dormouse is fast becoming a stranger in its native habitat (Daniel McGrory writes).

It has already vanished from seven northern and eastern counties of England and is hard to find elsewhere as its woodland habitat is destroyed. The dormouse seldom receives the attention given to more exotic species but Sue Fisher, head of conservation at the charity Tusk Force, said: "Extinction is no respecter of size and if we lecture other countries about their wildlife we have a duty to protect our native species."

In 1995 the charity began a programme of captive breeding in Devon. Before the dormice can be released into the wild they need to learn survival skills. At a "halfway house" in Winchester, in a semi-natural environment, the dormice learn how to forage and avoid predators.

In the Craigview Forest at Dunkeld in Scotland, Tusk Force is helping to fund a project to protect the red squirrel, which was so plentiful at the start of this century that it was viewed as a pest. Today, with only one red squirrel for every fifteen grey,

there is a real possibility of extinction. The grey squirrel, which arrived in America at the end of last century, is tougher than its red cousin. Red squirrels love ripe hazelnuts but grey squirrels eat them before they are mature, leaving the reds to starve.

Tusk Force is also keen to protect the Scottish wildcat, which once thrived throughout Britain. Today it is a rarity even in its last stronghold in the Highlands. Scientists say they have no idea how many wildcats remain and Tusk Force is working with the Wildlife Conservation Research Unit at Oxford University to study its habitat and rescue it from the shadow of extinction.

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La Dolce Vita star 'was perhaps Europe's greatest cinema actor of the past 50 years'

Trevi Fountain switched off as Italy mourns Mastroianni

"I FEEL death at my back," Marcello Mastroianni said in May. "I feel it breathing down my neck." It came for him yesterday in Paris, at the age of 72.

But for the millions of female fans who know him as Il Bel Marcello, he will always be the enduring embodiment of the Latin lover, a smile cracking his handsome features, his clothes elegantly cut, a cigarette dangling nonchalantly from his fingers.

The news dominated Italian television bulletins, with an announcer declaring: "Italy has lost one of its greatest postwar sons." The Trevi Fountain in Rome, where Mastroianni splashed so memorably with the statuesque Anita Ekberg in *La Dolce Vita*, was switched off and covered in black crepe in a mark of national mourning.

He was "perhaps the greatest European cinema actor of the past 50 years", the producer Daniel Toscani Du Platier said in Paris. He will also be

For female fans, the romantic Mastroianni, right, was a cinematic legend who will always be the enduring embodiment of the Latin lover, writes Richard Owen.



that he held the world's most beautiful women in his arms," Signor Biagi said yesterday.

The actress Monica Vitti said that he had been "the sweetest, most lighthearted of actors" and "a great friend".

Mastroianni had a number of affairs and lived for a long period with Catherine Deneuve, by whom he had a daughter, the actress Chiara Mastroianni. Both she and his other daughter Barbara, by his wife Flora, were at his bedside when he died.

Despite his many mistresses, Mastroianni remained married to the long-suffering Flora, and steadfastly refused to speak about "the most intimate things in my life, the most secret".

He was, to the end, as discreet, modest and private as he was heartbreakingly handsome. He thought nothing of his looks: "I am not handsome and never have been," he once said. "I have an ordinary face, the face of a country bumpkin." He was

proud of his peasant origins in a mountain village near Rome, and of his tough boyhood.

It was only after the war that acting took over his life. His stage debut in 1948 was alongside Giulietta Masina, the wife of Federico Fellini, who went on to direct Mastroianni — "my alter ego" — not only in *La Dolce Vita* but also *8½* and *Ginger and Fred*.

Mastroianni was still acting on stage this year, in *The Last Moons* by the Italian playwright Furio Bordon, to rapturous receptions. He celebrated his last birthday in Portugal on the set of *Voyage to the Beginning of the World*, a film by the director Manoel de Oliveira.

"I could have applied myself more, done better" he said. "But I've been very lucky. Perhaps my secret is that I have loved life. Deep down I still feel young — just a kid, really."



Obituary, page 19

Catherine Deneuve, right, and daughter Chiara after Mastroianni's death yesterday



Ralph Fiennes and Kristin Scott-Thomas in *The English Patient*, nominated for seven awards

'English Patient' tops Golden Globe list

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

A FILM about the English at war has won seven nominations for next month's Golden Globe awards, more than any other film.

Among other nominations, *The English Patient*, a drama set in North Africa and Tunisia during the Second World War, has received those for acting for Ralph Fiennes and Kristin Scott-Thomas, its British stars. It is also nominated for Best Drama and Best Director.

Other leading films in the build-up to the fifty-fourth Golden Globes, still viewed as a stepping stone to the Oscars despite damaging recent charges of corruption, include *Shine*, *Evita* and *The People vs. Larry Flynt*. *Secrets and Lies*, Mike Leigh's film about

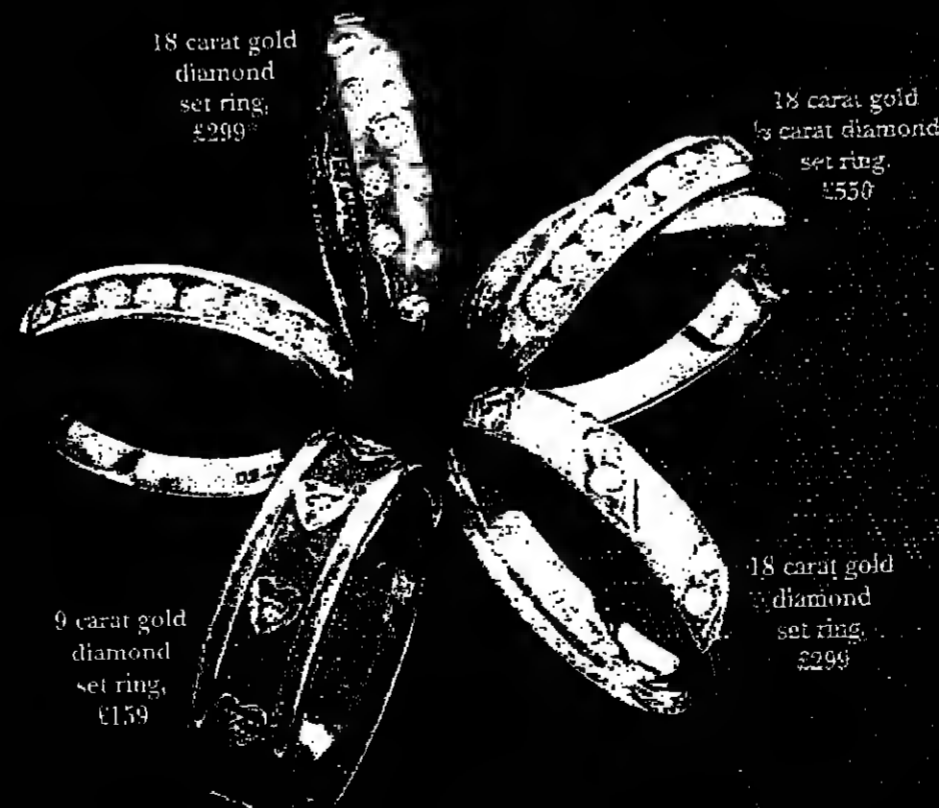
south London life, has won nominations in the Best Drama category. Britons Brenda Blethyn (Best Actress) and Marianne Jean-Baptiste (Best Supporting Actress) are also nominated.

Liam Neeson is named as a candidate for Best Actor for his controversial leading role in *Michael Collins*, a film about the Irish Republican activist.

Lauren Bacall and Britain's Paul Scofield are nominated for their supporting roles in *The Mirror Has Two Faces* and *The Crucible* respectively. Alan Parker, the Los Angeles-based British director, is nominated for his work on *Evita*. Madonna is nominated in the musicals category for her starring role.

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Netherlands	(DF)	770	45%	426	224	130	188
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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY DECEMBER 20 1996

Halifax spending a little Xtra £413m on flotation

By ANNE ASHWORTH AND CAROLINE MERRILL

THE Halifax Building Society has revealed that its metamorphosis into the 30th biggest bank in the world will cost £413 million — £46 for every borrower and saver. The total is made up of two elements: £260 million of costs associated with the Leeds Building Society merger and £153 million in conversion expenses, including fees to lawyers and merchant bankers.

The society will make its stock market debut next June in a £10 billion conversion. Nine million investing and borrowing members will receive an average payout of £1,000 in free Halifax shares. More than half of the conversion expenses, some £75 million, will be spent on communicating with these members. Each mailing costs around £5 million but the distribution of voting packs containing transfer documents and voting papers early next month will be a

£10-£20 million operation. It will involve 13 mailing houses and eight printing companies, approximately 60 per cent of the printing capacity of the UK, while the Post Office will lay on 60 Royal Mail lorries to work non-stop for eight days. The transfer document giving full details of the conversion, runs to some 150 pages. To spare a few trees, the Halifax sought Building Societies Commission approval to produce an abbreviated version but was refused.

Gary Marsh, assistant general manager of the Halifax, explained that the other half of the £153 million in conversion expenses would be spent on advertising, reprinting leaflets and removing the words "building society" from its signs. He would not disclose payments to Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank advising on the conversion. But a senior executive of another firm speculated that the bill would be £10-£20 million, with the bank offering its services at reduced

cost in the hope of securing profitable work from the Halifax after flotation. Linklaters & Paines, the City lawyers acting for the Halifax, charges about £500 an hour. Reorganisation and restructuring accounted for the bulk of the £260 million Leeds merger total. Although some money is being spent on opening, closing and enlarging branches, the information technology outlay has been greater as the Halifax works to integrate its largely IBM-based

system and the Leeds's mainly Unisys system, a process that has been a struggle at times. The interim accounts include an exceptional provision of £51.5 million for losses on the disposal of computer equipment. The conversion cost figures were released yesterday with interim accounts for Dow Jones showing profits before tax of £752 million for the nine months to October 31. The accounts have been specially prepared for inclusion in the transfer document.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET	
FTSE 100	4051.2 (+38.1)
Yield	3.23%
FTSE All share	1979.25 (+14.54)
Nikkei	13570.57 (+29.36)
New York	6399.83 (+58.06)
Dow Jones	737.24 (+6.30)
S&P Composite	737.24 (+6.30)
US RATE	
Federal Funds	5 1/8% (5.625%)
Long Bond	5 1/2% (5.25%)
Yield	6.65% (6.70%)
LONDON MONEY	
3-month Interbank	6 1/4% (6.25%)
Libor long	6 1/2% (6.25%)
Libor short	10 1/4% (10.25%)
STERLING	
New York	1.6625* (1.6740)
London	1.6625 (1.6725)
DM	2.5536 (2.5596)
FF	5.7209 (5.7269)
SFr	2.2264 (2.2273)
Yen	189.58 (190.10)
£ Index	94.1 (94.4)
DOLLAR	
London	1.6590* (1.6616)
FF	5.7209 (5.7269)
SFr	1.3359* (1.3290)
Yen	113.98* (113.68)
£ Index	96.5 (98.2)
Tokyo close Yen	113.90
COMMODITIES	
Brent 15-day (Mar)	\$23.20 (\$23.25)
London close	\$398.05 (\$398.05)

Delay on payout to Lloyd's names

By JON ASHWORTH

LLOYD'S of London has admitted that it has run into serious delays in paying out funds under its ambitious recovery plan. It has also admitted that about 4,000 names will have to pay more to settle their dues at Lloyd's, because of adverse movements on the currency exchanges. It denied that the delays threaten a knock-on effect in the insurance market.

Ron Sandler, chief executive, has written to names to apologise for setbacks to the payment timetable, and saying that "no effort is being spared" to bring the process back on track. In his letter, Mr Sandler admits that it had not been possible to settle with members by mid-December as intended.

Mr Sandler does not give a reason for the delay, other than referring in general terms to the "complex" nature of the accounting programmes involved. He adds: "I feel sure that you will understand our concern to ensure that these processes are followed diligently and, with the benefit of hindsight, perhaps our timetable was over optimistic."

Mr Sandler says the delays are not linked to attempts to collect funds from refusnik names. Lloyd's set out to recover nearly £500 million from 1,850 names in the UK, US and Canada, but the amount has fallen as members have requested talks. A test case involving debt recoveries continues in London today.

The admissions are an embarrassment to Lloyd's, which has been quick to emphasise the importance of timetables when seeking money from members. It insists, however, that the Reconstruction and Renewal (R&R) plan remains on course. Some 8,200 out of 12,000 names eligible to receive a rebate from Lloyd's under the settlement offer

have now been paid. Lloyd's has paid about £260 million out of an expected distributable surplus of more than £400 million.

Lloyd's would not comment yesterday on reports of widespread computer problems linked to R&R payments. Some names are reported to have received £10,000 more than they were owed, while others have received £10,000 less.

Lloyd's conceded that the rise in value of the pound against the dollar would result in increased "finality" payments for names on syndicates that have written business in dollar terms. About 4,000 names out of 34,000 worldwide are thought to be affected. It will not affect accepting names who have already paid.

Lloyd's would not elaborate on whether steps had been taken to hedge against the risk of currency movements. It said the potential for increased payments had been spelt out in the settlement offer document. A spokesman confirmed that a number of names who had accepted and owe money to Lloyd's had yet to settle their dues. They had been granted time to settle their affairs. According to some reports, as many as 1,700 names are involved.

It seems inevitable that the delays will spill over into the new year. There are fears in some quarters that this threatens a knock-on effect for large insurance brokers, who could face a situation where their tax liabilities exceed their net assets. The tax implications would be pursued directly with members' agents, increasing uncertainty in the market.

Mr Sandler wrote to names early last month, flagging "slight delays" in the R&R timetable. The intention was to complete the distribution process "as far as possible" by the end of the year.



Dunn & Co back in hands of receiver

By JASON NISSE

DUNN & CO, the menswear retailer specialising in hats and tweed, has collapsed for the second time in six years.

KPMG was appointed yesterday as receiver to Dunn, which employs 429 staff and has 130 stores, mostly in Wales and the South West of England.

The company was only created in June 1994 when a team of managers from Yorkshire bought the Dunn name, along with 40 of its stores, and merged it with their own group, Hodge. It has struggled as its customers, though loyal, are a small and declining group of the population.

Previously the retailer, which was created in 1888, had been liquidated by its owners, the Dunn pension fund, and the shops not sold on to Hodge were put into a property company.

DENISE KINGSMILL, above, the lawyer who once represented George Walker, is to be a deputy chairman of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (Jon Ashworth writes). Mrs Kingsmill, 49, will be one of three deputies at the MMC, and the first woman to hold the post, when she starts in the £68,000-a-year job next September. She will work with Graham Corbett, 62, former chief financial officer of

Lawyer taking monopolies job

Eurotunnel, who joins the MMC in May. A former senior partner in Peat Marwick in Paris, Mr Corbett will be paid £51,000 for working three days a week. Mrs

Kingsmill will still act as a consultant to Denton Hall, the City law firm. Born in New Zealand and raised in Wales, she has worked in the law since 1979, specialising in industrial relations and corporate governance. As a partner in DJ Freeman, she acted for Mr Walker after his ousting by Brent Walker's bankers in 1991. She said the MMC role "comes right to the heart of business".

MG investors await compensation news

By ROBERT MILLER

MORE than 90,000 investors in Morgan Grenfell's troubled European unit trusts are today expected to hear details of how their compensation will be calculated.

The exercise is likely to cost Morgan Grenfell, owned by Deutsche Bank of Germany, more than £200 million. Investors should receive their cheques before Easter, next year. The compensation is in addition to the £180 million already handed over by Deutsche to cover the more illiquid stocks held in two funds run by Peter Young who was dismissed

for "gross misconduct" and who is the subject of a Serious Fraud Office investigation. Intro, the watchdog for fund managers, is looking at the use of investors' money to buy shares in the illiquid unquoted stocks in breach of City rules. Morgan Grenfell faces a hefty fine, which could top the previous record of £750,000 levied on Invesco over the Maxwell affair. Certain senior executives in charge of Mr Young also face fines and possible bans from working in the City for a period.

Pennington, page 23

Asda keeps it simple... and very profitable

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

ARCHIE NORMAN, chairman of Asda, said yesterday that the supermarket group will stick to the "simple business of shopkeeping" rather than follow its rivals into financial services and loyalty cards.

Mr Norman, who is also the Conservative Party's prospective parliamentary candidate for Tunbridge Wells, said: "Everyone in the industry is looking for other things to do on the periphery. I do not rule them out, but real success is concentrating on fresh food, value for money and service." Asda is continuing to test a loyalty card in 20 stores, but has no immediate plans to introduce it nationwide because of the high cost, he said. All of Asda's main rivals — Tesco, J Sainsbury and Safeway — have their own nationwide loyalty card schemes and offer a range of financial services. Mr Norman was speaking as he revealed profits for the six months to

November 9 up 15.8 per cent, to £160 million. Like-for-like sales were 10.2 per cent ahead, by far the best in the sector. Earnings per share were 15.7 per cent higher at 4.06p, and the interim dividend was raised 12.5 per cent to 0.81p. It is payable on April 2.

Allan Leighton, who has taken over as chief executive from Mr Norman, said the company is putting more emphasis on its clothing, which is sold under the George brand name. Clothing sales were 35 per cent ahead, with children's wear sales up 40 per cent and women's outerwear up 50 per cent. The other area set for expansion within the stores is fresh foods, which had 15 per cent higher sales. Asda opened two stores in the first half, will open a further seven this financial year and plans seven large stores per year for the next three years.

Pennington, page 23

GKN faces \$400m suit over US subsidiary

By OLIVER AUGUST

GKN, the engineering and defence group, faces a damages bill of about \$400 million after a US exhaust subsidiary lost a class action suit.

The 1996 accounts will be hit by an appropriate provision pending further clarification of the complicated judgment, the group said. It called the judgment a setback in its financial position but emphasised that the agreed dividend for 1996 will not change.

A GKN statement said: "We are extremely surprised at the outcome which we believe to be wholly unreasonable and will appeal following delivery of the judgment."

The judgment in the case will not be issued until post-verdict issues and procedures have been resolved and this could take some weeks. The issues still to be determined could result in a substantial modification of the award. At face value the aggregate amount

awarded by a North Carolina court is \$398 million. It is possible that damages could be reduced on judgment or increased to a maximum of \$594 million. Some parts of the claim are covered by the North Carolina Unfair Trade Practices Act which allows for trebling of penalties.

The case concerns alleged breaches of contract and other claims about advertising activities brought by franchisees of the Meineke Discount Muffler Shops.

The action was also brought against New Horizons, Meineke's subsidiary; GKN Parts Industries, its immediate parent company; GKN, its ultimate parent; and three US resident offices of Meineke.

GKN shares fell sharply after the company's announcement, closing at £10.09, down from £10.45.

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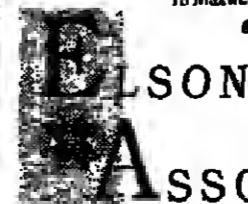
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Waterford buys 9% stake in Rosenthal

FROM EILEEN McCABE IN DUBLIN

WATERFORD Wedgwood, the crystal and china company, put an end to months of speculation yesterday when it confirmed that it is taking a 9.1 per cent stake in Rosenthal, the German porcelain group.

Under the deal Waterford Wedgwood, which is chaired by Tony O'Reilly, will acquire 60,000 new Rosenthal shares at or close to the prevailing market price.

The Irish company said that it also has options to acquire a further 15 per cent of Rosenthal over the next four years.

Waterford Wedgwood declined to put a value on its stake, but market analysts in Dublin said that based on Rosenthal's current share price, the 9.1 per cent stake is worth around Ir£25 million.

Although the two companies operate in the luxury goods sector, their products are not in direct competition and they already have distribution agreements in several markets.

As well as strengthening those marketing ties, the new alliance will also give them scope to collaborate on manufacturing.

Earlier this year Rosenthal adopted a restructuring programme in an effort to cut costs after it recorded losses of more than Ir£7 million in 1995. In contrast, Waterford Wedgwood is expected to report operating profits of around Ir£39 million for 1996.

Dr O'Reilly said yesterday that he was confident that the new alliance would help to restore the German group to profitability.



Raj Bagri, left, the chairman of the LME, and David King, its chief executive, yesterday after the SIB announced the results of its review

Firms face tighter regulation and control over metal trades

BY ROBERT MILLER

FIRMS who trade on the London Metal Exchange (LME) will be subject to tighter and more transparent disciplinary and regulatory procedures, the City's chief watchdog said yesterday.

Unveiling the results of a six-month review of the LME after the \$2.8 billion Sumitomo copper scandal, the Securities and Investments Board (SIB) outlined a seven-point plan to enhance standards of market integrity delivered by the LME.

Sumitomo announced in June that it had lost billions of dollars on the world's copper markets and blamed its former chief trader Yasuo Hamanaka, known as Mr 5

Per Cent for the portion of the world's copper market he accounted for. At the request of Raj Bagri and David King, respectively chairman and chief executive of the LME, the SIB launched its review.

The SIB, headed by Sir Andrew Large, said that it wanted "an urgent and thorough review by the LME of its governance, so that it is clear that conflicts of interest are avoided and that it is run in the interests of the full range of its users and members".

The chief City watchdog is aware that to many outsiders, and even inside regulatory circles, the perception of the LME is that it does not appear to have enough inde-

pendent voices on its 16-strong board of directors or on the exchange's executive.

The SIB said that it wanted "an increase in the role, authority and resources of the LME Executive, to enable it better to meet the challenges of running and regulating a successful world market".

Last year the 120-year old LME, which has grown by 700 per cent in the past eight years, traded more than \$2.5 trillion worth of metals — chiefly copper, but also aluminium, zinc, lead, tin and nickel. More than 90 per cent of the world's copper is traded through the London exchange.

that many of the largest copper trades, including a number of Sumitomo's previous deals, are done off-market through offshore centres and are therefore harder to monitor. To address this key issue, the SIB has called for "enhanced monitoring with strengthened large position reporting, more and suitably experienced staff and more extensive use of technology".

The review recommends that the up-dated technology should also be used to police some of the 400 warehouses worldwide where the physical copper is stored.

On the discipline and enforcement aspect of the LME's work the SIB says "we recom-

mend that in future it [the LME] establishes and enforces a policy of pursuing disciplinary action where rule breaches are identified".

The LME welcomed the review, although Mr Bagri said: "You can never stop people going berserk, being greedy or just plain foolish."

Mike O'Brien, Shadow Economic Secretary, said: "Self-regulation, failed in the Sumitomo case. The LME must now make urgent changes if it is to ensure its future as a recognised investment exchange. However, the LME was not responsible for most of the scandal."

Pennington, page 23

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Battle for Northern nearing its finale

THE bitter fight for control of Northern Electric ends at lunchtime today. The signs indicate a knife-edge battle until the conclusion between Northern and CE Electric, the American group mounting a £782 million hostile bid, and the takeover may be decided by a last-minute consensus from institutions. It is likely that a range of institutions will consult each other on what offers the better value and the decision could end up a 60/40 split, either way. Schroders and BZW, Northern's advisers, yesterday continued to inflame CE Electric by buying Northern shares in the market. They bought 100,000 more shares, adding 0.1 per cent to a 2.3 per cent stake purchased the previous day.

Several large institutions — controlling about 15 per cent of Northern's shares — have pledged public support for the company's rejection of the 650p-a-share bid as too low, while small shareholders, controlling about 19 per cent of Northern's equity, are thought to be largely loyal. CE Electric has acceptances for more than 4 per cent of the shares and owns 29 per cent, which it bought in the market.

Mortgage fraud curb

THE Government has brought in new legislation aimed at curbing mortgage fraud. The new law will now mean that it is illegal to obtain a money transfer by deception, or to retain credits from dishonest sources. The new legislation means that it will be possible to prosecute in cases of fraud which involve the electronic transfer of funds between accounts or a transfer using a cheque. Any such transfers might include mortgages, advances, loans or grants.

Optimism for Laporte

SHARES of Laporte, the chemicals company that suffered a 50 per cent fall in interim pre-tax profits, rose 7p to 66 1/2 p after reporting better news on second-half trading. It said: "The international spread in our business together with the strong market and technology positions in specialist continue to provide the base from which solid progress will be achieved for the year as a whole." Sterling's strength will have little effect on 1996 results, although had the current exchange rate prevailed for the whole year an extra 16 million would have been lost.

Bardon lifts stake

BARDON GROUP increased its shareholding in Bruncliffe Aggregates, the rival building materials group, to 22.7 per cent, after exercising options to purchase shares from two former directors of Bruncliffe and Mineral & General Investments, a Jersey trust. Bardon already has convertible loan stock that could be swapped for another 5.05 per cent of Bruncliffe. Close watchers of the situation expect that an offer for the rest of Bruncliffe could take place in the new year.

Tring in the red

LITIGATION cost Tring International, the budget music company that has been in dispute with K-tel over alleged copyright violations, £400,000 and helped to push it £2.4 million into the red (£1.4 million profit) in the six months to September 30. There is no interim dividend. The loss is partly because of poor trading in the summer, but also includes £2.6 million exceptional charges. The dispute with K-tel has been settled. Philip Keane is to step down, at the end of January as Tring's finance director. *Temple, page 24*

CSX raises Conrail bid

CSX, the US transport conglomerate, has raised its bid for Conrail in a further effort to defeat rival Norfolk Southern. Conrail shareholders would receive an extra \$16 per share in convertible preferred shares as part of the portion of CSX's offer covered by shares. The offer is 60 per cent shares and 40 per cent cash. The increase raises the total value of the \$8.5 billion offer by \$870 million. Management is recommending acceptance, even though Norfolk Southern is offering more in an all-cash offer, worth \$10 billion or \$110 per share.

Acatos profits steady

ACATOS & HUTCHESON, the edible oils and fats manufacturing group, reported a modest rise in pre-tax profits to £7.7 million for the year ending September 29, from £7.6 million in the previous year. Operating profits were lifted to £9.1 million from £6.7 million, before exceptional items, but the group's turnover was down to £282 million from £294 million. Earnings per share rose to 14.6p from 12.2p. The total dividend is raised to 10p from 9p with a 6.5p final due on April 7.

Henri Wintermans sold

BAT Industries has sold the Henri Wintermans Cigar Group to Denmark's Skandinavisk Tobakskompani for £55 million, creating one of Europe's largest manufacturers of cigars. BAT said the sale would result in a small pre-tax profit. Existing sales and distribution relationships would be maintained. BAT, whose shares closed 20p up at 486 1/2, holds a 32.15 per cent stake in Skandinavisk Tobakskompani, which processes cigarettes, roll-your-own and pipe tobacco and also owns Nobel Cigars.

Ruberoid disposal

SHARES of Ruberoid, the all-weather protective systems company, fell 10p to 101p yesterday after it withdrew from its French contracting operations with the sale of Toover, its subsidiary, for an estimated £300,000. The French contracting operations incurred a pre-tax loss of £300,000 on turnover of £13.3 million last year and are expected to show a pre-tax loss of £800,000 this year. Ruberoid is expected to lose £1.4 million on the sale. The company is also selling its contracting business in Belgium.

Generators retain supply incentives

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

INCENTIVE payments to generators to ensure continuity of supply are to remain throughout the winter despite pressure from the regulator's office and large energy users.

The new set of payments were implemented by the electricity pool at the behest of the Department of Trade and Industry and are designed to limit instability caused by the use of gas contracts that can be interrupted. These contracts give fuel at cheaper prices but can be switched off by the suppliers who, along with British Gas's pipeline network, have given warning that interruptions are likely this winter. Generators, who already receive payments related to power station availability, now enjoy extra payments for turning to alternative fuels and for keeping extra staff on call.

The regulator's office has urged the pool to look at a longer-term solution to security of supply "expeditiously" because of concern that the generators can arbitrage between the gas and electricity markets. Theoretically, the payments would reward them for pushing gas into the gas market and then switching to oil or other fuels.

A spokeswoman for Offer, the electricity watchdog, said: "Offer is very keen that the pool works on a long-term solution." John Saunders, director of regulation and business affairs at Offer, is believed to have told large energy users' groups that the pool has been pressed on urgent action to ensure that customers are not exploited.

But a spokesman for the electricity pool said there was no deadline for a fresh method to ensure security of supply and that the pool was not convinced of a problem in the system.

Gallagher is expected to be demerged from American Brands, its parent company, in mid-1997, when it will seek a stock market listing in London.

Pool troubles, page 25

Gallagher to close factory

ALMOST 1,000 jobs are to be lost with the closure of Gallagher's cigarette factory at Hyde in Manchester. It was announced yesterday (Martin Barrow writes).

The company is to concentrate UK production at a single site in Northern Ireland, where an additional 300 jobs will be created over the next three to four years.

The restructuring will give rise to a £70 million charge. In addition, £40 million is to be invested in Northern Ireland to install high-speed machinery. Gallagher closed a factory in Belfast in 1988 and another at Port Talbot, South Wales, in 1994. It has cut its distribution branches from eight to one since 1991.

Gallagher is expected to be demerged from American Brands, its parent company, in mid-1997, when it will seek a stock market listing in London.

Rail link builders prepare for float

BY JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

A £1 billion stock market flotation to finance the Channel Tunnel Rail Link, Britain's biggest mainland civil engineering project since the war, will go ahead within the next 18 months, the builders of the high-speed route declared yesterday.

London & Continental Railways (LCR), the consortium including Virgin Group and National Express that was chosen by the Government to build the 68-mile link from north London to the Channel Tunnel, said that the rest of the money would be raised from bond issues and bank debt.

Construction costs are estimated at £2.835 billion, at 1995 prices, but financing costs will take the total soaring past £3 billion. The consortium, which also operates the 180mph Eurostar trains between London, Paris and Brussels, will eventually be able to claim £1.4 billion of the costs back from the Government.

Sir Derek Hornby, the chairman of LCR, said that last month's Channel Tunnel fire would not affect the company's long-term plans, in spite of the two-week closure of the tunnel and the six-month disruption to services. "We are regarding this as an isolated case, which is already showing marked signs of improvement," he said.



Sir Derek Hornby, left, with John Watts, Transport Minister

IBC wins £180m deal for new Euro van

BY KEVIN EASON MOTORING EDITOR

BRITISH workers have beaten international competition to win an £180 million deal to build a new van for Europe. The investment is worth an extra 900 jobs for the IBC plant at Luton, Bedfordshire.

IBC bid for the deal against competition from Renault plants in France and Opel companies in Germany, which belong to the same General Motors group as IBC, part of Vauxhall Motors. The announcement came as national figures showed car and commercial vehicle output from British manufacturers up in November by 2.28 per cent at 153,493. The figures masked a slump at home and a boom abroad: car production for export was ahead 19.24 per cent last month but shipments overseas of commercial vehicles jumped 123 per cent.

The co-operative deal means Renault will provide 2.5 to 3.5 tonne vans — badged separately as the Renault Traffic and Vauxhall Arena — until assembly lines at Luton are ready to take the new vehicle at the turn of the century.

Nick Reilly, Vauxhall chairman, said: "This agreement will allow Vauxhall to fully compete in the most buoyant sector of the UK van market. It is also of the utmost significance to the long-term future of our IBC plant at Luton as it will substantially increase the company's role as a European vehicle supplier."

Mystery Arizona fan buys a stake in Chelsea

BY JASON NISSE

KEN BATES, chairman of Chelsea Village, which owns Chelsea football club, yesterday made a £375,000 profit on a deal to sell a 5.8 per cent stake in the group to a mystery investor, believed to be from Arizona, without informing his company secretary of the new shareholder's identity.

Having a company controlled by a Channel Island trust, acquired an option to subscribe for a 5.8 per cent stake in the company given to Mr Bates earlier this year. Having immediately exercised the option, paying £4.5 million for the shares which last night were valued at £8.5 million. When asked who Having was, Alan Shaw, Chelsea's company secretary

said: "I don't know. We have not served a 212 notice." This is a requirement for an investor to disclose the beneficial owners of its shares under Section 212 of the Companies Act. Mr Shaw added that he could not ask Mr Bates who the new shareholder was, saying, "The chairman's gone away and is uncontactable."

Inquiries revealed the investor is a private individual, living in Arizona, who is a keen fan of English football. No-one close to the club said they knew this person's name. The estate of Matthew Harding, the Chelsea deputy chairman who died in the autumn, holds an identical option and it is expected that, after the publication of his will this week, this option will be exercised in the next few days. These

moves will bring in £9 million of finance, allowing the club to complete the current stage of its development programme involving flats and a hotel behind the south stand.

Chelsea also moved to deal with the identity of Rysaffe, a Hong Kong company that is its 30.3 per cent shareholder. It said it was a blind trust in which Mr Bates had no interest and the shares are now to be administered by a management company run by Patrick Murrin, an accountant from Guernsey who is a non-executive director of Chelsea.

Newcastle United confirmed its intention to float on the stock market. Full details will be published in January, with United expected to be valued at over £150 million.

Bank of Scotland Mortgages Direct

NOTICE OF INTEREST RATE VARIATION

The following rates for mortgages provided by Bank of Scotland, Mortgages Direct will apply as from 2nd January 1997 for both new and existing borrowers.

Bank of Scotland Mortgages Direct Variable Rate 7.74% per annum.

Bank of Scotland Mortgages Direct Preferential Variable Rate 6.74% per annum.

Bank of Scotland Mortgages Direct Personal Choice Variable Rate 7.24% per annum.



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FOODS RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.21	2.06
Austria S	19.25	17.75
Belgium F	58.44	52.14
Canada \$	2.36	2.22
Cypriot Cyp	0.218	0.204
Denmark Kr	10.80	8.70
Finland Mkk	8.32	7.87
France F	8.18	8.55
Germany Dm	2.76	2.54
Greece Dr	428	403
Hong Kong \$	13.57	12.57
Iceland Is	120	100
Ireland P	1.06	0.88
Israel Shk	5.76	5.11
Italy Lira	2057	2012
Japan Yen	204.50	188.50
Media	0.243	0.238
Netherlands Gld	3.603	2.655
New Zealand \$	2.81	2.28
Norway Kr	11.35	21.85
Portugal Esc	270.00	264.50
S Africa Rd	8.41	7.51
Spain Ptas	228.00	215.00
Sweden Kr	12.08	11.28
Switzerland Fr	2.85	2.17
Turkey Lira	16000	19000
USAS	1.770	1.940

Notes for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Delivery rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates are as of closing trading yesterday.

□ Doubts over copper debacle □ Winners and losers in supermarket wars □ Two questions for Berisford shareholders

Sorting through the scrap metal

□ HOW could a company lose nearly \$3 billion through the activities of just one employee? Even Nick Leeson needed a bit of help. Easy; just ask Sumitomo Corporation. The Japanese trading conglomerate has steadfastly insisted that solo fraudulent trading activities of Yasuo Hamanaka, its former star copper trader, were responsible for the corporation's losses.

That explanation is hardly credible when you consider the facts as we now know them and as outlined again by the Securities and Investments Board. In 1991 senior officials from the London Metal Exchange (LME) and the SIB interviewed Mr Hamanaka in the UK, together with a senior Sumitomo executive, after they learnt that the Japanese copper dealer had asked another London trader for a backdated invoice of a fictitious trade worth \$250 million.

David King, chief executive of the LME, registered clear concern about the dummy trade and the large positions taken by the Japanese in the copper market. The SIB likewise. Yet Sumitomo said that false document was required for legitimate Japanese tax purposes, and Mr Hamanaka, who has indicated that he will plead guilty to certain fraud charges, went on to account for about 5 per cent of the global copper market.

There were further warnings to Sumitomo that also seem to have been ignored. Although this column has had good reason in the past to take City watchdogs to task, it appears that everything that could and should have been done, was. The trouble is that the metals market is dominated by a few very large professional players who know the rules — there are no widows and orphans being gyped, and they should perhaps be left to look after their own affairs. The sort of regulation available to less specialised authorities can only be minimal and tangential.

As to how such investigations should be handled after the fact, the Sumitomo affair is being examined by civil and criminal authorities in Britain, the US and Japan. In many ways it provides a template for the future, showing how all the different bodies should co-operate. Whether any charges, other than those against Mr Hamanaka, are pressed remains to be seen; piecing together the huge copper trades done on behalf of Sumitomo will take many more months.

But there is a growing feeling in the City that the UK authorities are being too tactful and circumspect with their Japanese counterparts. It is whispered that if anyone were to be so impetuous as to raise criticisms, or even be suspected of doing so, Japan would withdraw its co-operation.

This is arrant nonsense. As one of the biggest and most respected traders in the world the Japanese must learn to be more open with their international partners. Perhaps if they had listened to those warnings back in 1991 they would not be in such a sensitive position now.

Ring change at the cash tills

□ THE rich get richer, the poor get poorer, and God is indeed on the side of the big battalions — at least in the supermarket wars. The sector's interim reporting season ended with a bang, as Asda stormed in with outstanding profit and sales growth. The chain's gross margins, the all-important measure for the



grocers, may have fallen by half a percentage point, but the company's extraordinary renaissance over the past half-decade has been more about volume growth, and this trend continued. Like-for-like sales were 10 per cent ahead, and customer numbers 7 per cent higher. And all this without a loyalty card. Archie Norman, now chairman, can contemplate a less taxing role and a political career with some confidence. How different it was for Iceland back in September, at the beginning of the results season, reporting the first profits setback in the company's 26-year history. Since then we have had Tesco confirming its position as number one in the sector. J

Sainsbury struggling, with little success so far, to find a way to get back on top, and Sainsbury coming in as a solid runner-up.

The sector has, even more than before, split into two packs. Way out ahead are Tesco, J Sainsbury, Asda and Sainsbury. The rest are also-rans, and the tiddlers in the sector, particularly Kwik Save, look weaker than ever. The big four have been using their buying power and sophisticated marketing techniques to steal market share. The end result must be consolidation among those also-rans, and the exit of one or more of the foreign discounters who have set up shop over here.

It will be difficult for any of the big four to snap up the smaller chains without running into competition problems, particularly if Labour is in power, so deals may have to be struck. It will be amusing to watch Asda and Tesco, for example, squabbling over how to carve up, say, Wm Morrison's to their own mutual advantage, but the spectacle is likely to begin before too long. The existence of proper competition in such a market is a

worry. But there is little to suggest that the tiddlers ever exerted much pressure on their more successful rivals.

Welbilt gives no satisfaction

□ WHEN Jim Fifield at Thorn EMI, as it then was, was "outed" a few years ago as earning as much as the average music industry mogul in the US and rather more than any of his British colleagues, the howls of outrage were tempered by an acceptance that EMI was doing rather well. Extraordinary rewards in the boardroom went in tandem with shareholder value.

Not so at Berisford, one of this year's crop of stock market pratfalls, where over the past five years shareholders have exchanged bundles of cash for rivers of tears. A profit warning in September sent the shares tumbling, featuring a curious and not entirely explained slowdown at its American Welbilt subsidiary. Welbilt was bought for £198 million in early 1995, and along with it came Marion

Antonini as chief executive and a remuneration package of truly transatlantic proportions.

Mr Antonini remains as chief executive. His contract runs for another year and a bit, and he must be still paid a "guaranteed bonus" equal to at least half his earnings. Fine minds might muse the difference between a guaranteed bonus and a straight salary — might it have something to do with disguising the size of the latter?

Simple shareholders should consider two questions ahead of Berisford's annual meeting on January 28. Just what is Mr Antonini doing to justify that package? And why is the company refusing to promise now that his contract, once it expires, will not be renewed?

Shut up and pay up

□ MORGAN GRENFELL has developed another unpleasant trait besides losing investors' money: whingeing about it. MG claims to have been unfairly treated by watchdog Imro over the mismanagement of its European funds. But no such complaint could arise if investors had not suffered first. Now is the time for Morgan Grenfell to shut up, stop bringing the unit trust industry into disrepute and pay up to 90,000-plus investors. And no later than today, please.

Rank says £185m charges will hit full-year figures

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

RANK GROUP, the leisure company, yesterday disappointed the City with a worse than expected trading statement and the suggestion that the sale of its £1 billion stake in Rank Xerox might be delayed until early 1998.

Rank shares fell 24½p to 417½p after analysts downgraded full-year figures from about £300 million to £300 million. Rank shares have now fallen more than 20 per cent since April with the City concerned about the company's strategy.

Rank also said that full-year profits would be hit by about £185 million in exceptional charges, including £35 million costs for restructuring and a £150 million writedown after a property review. However, the

company created some cheer by confirming that it had sold Shearings, the coach operator, to a management team for £83 million.

NatWest Ventures is investing £30 million for a majority stake, with the remainder being taken by management and employees. Shearings sells more than 500,000 holidays a year targeted largely at an older age group.

Rank is expected to complete a £300 million disposal plan with the sale of Kingston Plantation, its US property subsidiary, early next year for about £60 million.

The company said in its 11-month trading statement that all the businesses had moved ahead in 1996, with film and entertainment services performing especially strongly. Video duplication volumes increased 16 per cent, boosted by major releases in the US such as *Independence Day*, *Mission Impossible* and *The Nutty Professor*.

Rank added that the integration of the remainder of the Hard Rock Cafe chain, which was acquired for £270 million in June, was proceeding well. But profits from the chain have fallen because of a 4 per cent decline in like-for-like sales and the temporary closure of the Paris outlet. Rank said that it had plans to accelerate openings.

Bingo admissions rose slightly on a like-for-like basis, bucking the market trend. Spending per head also rose 6 per cent, helping Rank to increase gaming profit. The company added that its cinemas had also been performing strongly.

Tom Cobleigh, the pub chain acquired for £120 million, is performing up to expectations and new sites have been identified. Rank said it was aiming to add 20 new pubs in 1997 to the existing 52 sites.

The volumes of UK holidays increased 3 per cent with a 5 per cent boost in retail spending at the sites, which include Oasis and Warner. Paid admissions to Universal City, Florida, also rose 6 per cent.

The company added that it expected to receive £40 million in profits from its stake in Rank Xerox.

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David Thomas, left, yesterday with Peter Jarvis, whom he is to succeed as Whitbread chief

New chief reflects new Whitbread

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

DAVID THOMAS is to take over as chief executive of Whitbread, the leisure and brewing company, when Peter Jarvis steps down next summer, the company announced yesterday.

Mr Thomas is currently managing director of the restaurants and leisure division. Mr Jarvis has served as chief executive since 1985.

Whitbread's choice of Mr Thomas reflects its continuing move away from its brewing roots towards hotel and retail activities. The company is the third-largest hotel group in the UK after its acquisition of the Marriott hotel franchise, and the second-largest restaurant group.

Retail elements contribute 68 per cent of profits, up from 37 per cent ten years ago. The company predicts that the retail side will produce 75 per cent of profits within the next few years, with brewing providing just 10 per cent.

Airtours cruise plan propels shares to record

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

SHARES in Airtours jumped 39½p to a record high of 780½p yesterday after the tour operator announced plans with Carnival Corporation, its US partner, to buy the biggest cruise line in Europe.

Airtours, the UK's second-largest tour operator, already runs a highly successful cruise operation in the Mediterranean. Airtours and Carnival expect to launch a joint tender offer, which would give them 50-50 ownership of Costa.

They expect to pay £181 million for Costa, which is quoted on the Milan stock exchange and has ten ships. Carnival and Airtours formed a strategic alliance in March when Carnival took a 29.6 per cent stake in Airtours.

Analysts expect Carnival to launch a full bid for Airtours in the long-term. The acquisition is seen as a good deal since 900,000 people take a cruise each year, and another 300,000 are expected to do so in the next four years. Airtours shares, which have almost doubled in the past five months, have been squeezed high amid a shortage of stock in the market.

The surge in Airtours shares last week was sparked by record profits that outstripped analysts' forecasts. The company said then that it was in a position to spend between £200 million and £250 million on acquisitions.

The owners of Costa, who have 56.9 per cent of voting shares, are reported to have already agreed to the deal, which is expected to be completed by March.

Airtours also plans to sell cruise holidays to Scandinavians, via its tour operating subsidiary, David Crossland, chairman of Airtours, said: "The European cruise market is forecast to grow significantly and Airtours believes that the option of cruising will become increasingly popular in the UK and Scandinavian markets, where Airtours is uniquely placed to capitalise on such growth."

Going Places, the high street travel agency owned by Airtours, announced yesterday that it was offering discounts of between 10 per cent and 25 per cent for summer 1997 holidays booked immediately after Christmas.

Berisford reveals £270,000 bonus

BY JASON NISSE

BERISFORD, the troubled conglomerate that recently suffered a profits warning and the disappearance of a bid approach, paid the head of its US business a £270,000 bonus last year, taking his total package to £771,000.

Marion Antonini, who joined the group when it bought Welbilt for £200 million two years ago, received the bonus despite disappointing figures from the US side. A spokesman said that Mr Antonini's contract guaranteed a bonus of at least 50 per cent of his basic salary. The bonus paid equalled 62 per cent. The contract runs until January 1998 when it can be

renegotiated. Institutional investors are opposed to both guaranteed bonus payments and contracts lasting for more than a year. One said yesterday that he would be taking up the matter with the company.

Berisford shares have nearly halved in value over the past year thanks to problems at Welbilt and Magnet, the Yorkshire joinery company it bought for £80 million.

Alan Bowkett, Berisford's chief executive, was given massive share options when he joined the company. They are now valued at £1.3 million.

Pennington, page 23

Citizens raises \$89m from mortgage rights

BY MARTIN BARROW

CITIZENS Financial Group, the Royal Bank of Scotland subsidiary in America, has raised \$89 million through the sale of \$5 billion of third party mortgage servicing rights to Dovenmuehle Mortgage.

Dovenmuehle will also subscribe the entire portfolio of mortgage loans owned by Citizens, currently \$3.2 billion. In September Citizens said that it planned to sell its entire \$8.8 billion mortgage servicing portfolio and withdraw from the wholesale mortgage business.

The decision was taken as part of a strategic repositioning to focus on retail mortgage business through its banking franchise in New England.

Yesterday's deal was approved by the Federal Trade Commission to be completed in the first quarter of 1997. Citizens said that it would continue to explore strategic options for the remaining \$3.8 billion of third party mortgage servicing rights.

Royal Bank of Scotland owns 76.5 per cent of Citizens. The balance is owned by Bank of Ireland.

Tom Cobleigh, the pub chain acquired for £120 million, is performing up to expectations and new sites have been identified. Rank said it was aiming to add 20 new pubs in 1997 to the existing 52 sites.

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The company added that it expected to receive £40 million in profits from its stake in Rank Xerox.

Tempus, page 24

Digital TV guidelines set out

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE regulatory framework for digital television, the broadcasting revolution that will bring a huge increase in channels, was outlined yesterday by the industry regulator.

Don Cruickshank, Director-General of Ofcom, drafted a series of guidelines to ensure that the market cannot be influenced by companies controlling the all-important decoders. He is attempting to ensure competitive access to digital television by a range of broadcasters and to enable customers to choose services without system complications.

International, owner of *The Times*, launches a 200-channel service. A terrestrial version is expected to begin in 1998. Mr Cruickshank said the guidelines, which are still at the consultative stage, would not delay the start.

He also sought to dispel fears over the potential domination of the market by BSkyB, which has aroused concern because it will be the first player in the area and will have a head start on the decoding hardware.

Regulation of digital television will centre on the decoding mechanism. The guidelines are designed so that technology is not used to "distort, restrict or prevent competition in television".

Ofcom will watch over the electronic programme guides with which viewers will move around the system to find

channels. There has been concern from some broadcasters that they will get unpopular programme numbers while the company operating the control access technology secures prime numbers.

It will also look at the operation of any subsidy for decoders and how that subsidy can be recovered through charges to broadcasters. Ofcom intends to review its plans after comments from the industry.

The Department of Trade and Industry earlier this week set out its own guidelines to deliver fair competition in digital television. But they were regarded by a number of broadcasters as insufficient to address fears in the industry.

The digital revolution will also improve the quality of pictures and sound and will enable a variety of additional functions such as interactive television.

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Billion-share turnover extends the festive rally

DEALERS had m content with another day of frenetic trading, with a staggering 1.1 billion shares changing hands...



Shares in Asda firmed 1 1/2p on first-half results for Allan Leighton, chief executive, left, and Archie Norman

Investors were heartened enough to shrug off the stronger than expected surge in the November money supply that could add pressure for a further rise in interest rates.

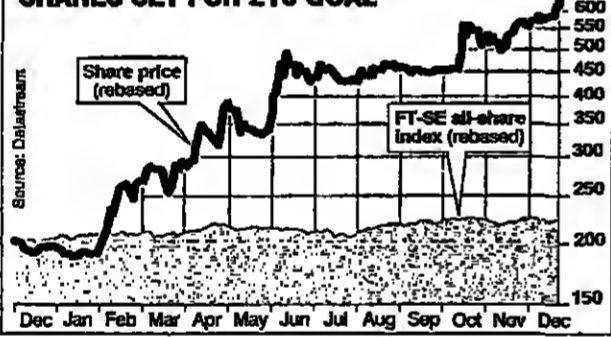
price closed 3p better at 126 1/2p. News of its defeat in the US courts saw GKN dip below the 100 level, touching 96 1/2p before reducing the deficit to 35 1/2p at 10.05a.

Stock shortages drove Railtrack 2 1/2p higher at 398p ahead of the stock going ex-dividend in the new year.

Hunters Armley, the commercial printer, stood out with a rise of 1 1/2p at 105p on the back of a "buy" recommendation from Panmure Gordon, the broker.

But brokers were unimpressed with the trading update from Rank Organisation, the price dropping 2 1/2p to 416 1/2p. BZW has cut its profit forecast for the current year from £332 million to £324 million after the group warned of write-offs of £235 million.

MANCHESTER UNITED: SHARES SET FOR £10 GOAL



The City gave a cautious welcome to half-year figures from Asda showing pre-tax profits 16 per cent higher at £160.1 million.

Share price (rebased) FT-SE all-share index (rebased) Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Robustness of the market was underlined by the fact that the FT-SE 100 index put on a further 31.1 points to close at 4,051.3, extending its lead during the past two days m 77.1.

Europe and currency fluctuations for the setback. The group will also take a £1.4 million hit on the sale of Toover, its loss-making French business.

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MAJOR INDICES

Table of major stock indices including New York (midday), Tokyo, Hong Kong, Amsterdam, Sydney, Frankfurt, Singapore, Brussels, Paris, Zurich, London, and others.

PERCENTAGES

Table showing percentage changes for various sectors like Advanced Power, Archer Dedicated, BZW Endowment Red 53, etc.

HIGHLY RATED

Table listing highly rated companies such as Allied Colloids n/p, Auklet n/p (5), and others.

MAJOR STOCKS

Table of major stock prices and changes, including RISES, FALLS, and Closing Prices Page 28.

TEMPUS

Slipping down the Ranks

RANK GROUP may claim to be the company's premier leisure outfit, but the company has hardly been supplying shareholders with fun. The shares have slipped 23 per cent since spring because of persistent worries on Rank's structure and strategy.

Andrew Teare, who became chief executive earlier this year, is trying to rebuild the sprawling giant. Gone are Precision Industries and Shearings, the coach business sold yesterday, for £83 million.

But for all the non-core disposal plans, there remain large question marks over the company's strategy. The suspicion is that the company overpaid for the Tom Cobligh pub chain, purchased for £120 million, and apart

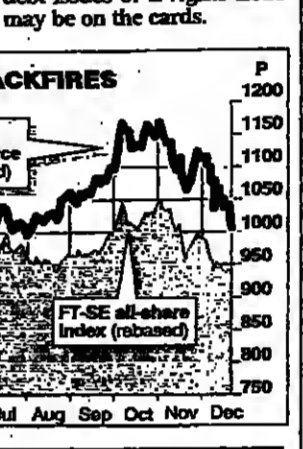
from vague ideas of adding pubs to future multiplex sites, it is still not clear how it fits with the rest of Rank's business. The video duplication business has recorded a useful increase in sales this year, but the City does not believe that the business has a long-term future with on-line video the way forward.

But the market is in Rank's favour with consumer spending expected to continue to accelerate in the UK and US over the coming year. For this reason alone, the shares, which stand on a forward price earnings ratio of around 16, are still worth clinging on to.

GKN

GKN will be hit by a substantial charge after losing a class action suit in America over discount muffler shops. Lawyers and judges have yet to decide whether the damage will amount to \$400 million or to \$550 million.

Whatever the outcome, investors will see more of GKN's 1996 share price gains wiped out. But the news from North Carolina is not as grim as it seems.



Tring

WHEN Tring warned the market in September that it would only produce a "small" interim profit, what it really meant was a very small interim profit combined with very large exceptional charges.

Yesterday, the music and video distributor reported just £200,000 pre-tax profit for the six months to September 30 before exceptional, and a £2.4 million loss after. Last year's profit was £1.44 million and a year earlier was £2.56 million.

A big item in the exceptional is litigation. The company says it has made "considerable progress" in settling its legal actions, brought for alleged copyright violations, and a key dispute with K-Tel has been settled with a new license agreed. It also says no significant new claims have been received, but this is a long way from everything being settled.

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices including COCOA, ROBUSTA COFFEE, WHITE SUGAR, MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION, and others.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table of London financial futures including FISE 100, FISE 250, Three Month Sterling, Three Mth Euro DM, Long Gilt, Japanese Govt Bond, German Gov Bd Bund, Three month ECU, Euro Swiss Franc, Italian Govt Bond, and others.

LIFE OPTIONS

Table of life insurance options including Call, Put, and various contract details.

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

Table of London metal exchange prices for various metals like Gold, Silver, Platinum, and others.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table of sterling spot and forward rates for various currencies.

OTHER LISTINGS

Large table of other listings including company names, share prices, and market data.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Table of European money deposit rates for various currencies and terms.

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Barr & Co)

Table of gold and precious metals prices from Barr & Co.

THE TIMES
CITY DIARY

Policing by the book

THE Metropolitan Police made a surprise visit yesterday to the West End offices of Dennis Publishing. As a Christmas prank (supposedly) one of the staff hung out a sign saying "Help, I am being held here against my will". A concerned local resident dialled 999 on seeing the note, and the police immediately sent round officers to investigate. A rather bemused receptionist told the officers that she could hardly stop people leaving at the end of an evening, and a relieved constable replied: "We'll have to get the armed hostage squad off alert, then."

Sunken feeling

POOR Russell Jones, property director of Newcastle United, is ruing the length of time it has taken for Newcastle City Council to approve the club's scheme to build a new stadium. He claims to have come up with the idea for a sunken pitch and was sick as a parrot when he saw the plans for the new stadium for dead-ly rivals Sunderland Football Club with, guess what, a sunken pitch.

Miles worse

TEETHING trouble at the Kuwaiti Investment Office which yesterday hosted its first annual draw. Dissent broke out among employees of the rules drawn up to qualify for air miles amassed by KIO's high-flying executives. Staff were required to have worked at least six hours a week over time. Even one day off work sick would have invalidated their entry. Into the hat went 60 names: 20 lucky winners flew off with between 500 and 3,500 air miles.



"Sell United"

Skirting issues

ROBERT THOMSON, the chief executive of Scottish Friendly Assurance Society, will be donning his kilt in Mackintosh, tartan to-night for a ceilidh at the Royal Concert Hall in Glasgow. Word has it that, not to be outshone, Thomson has been in training for the gathering.

In character

THE urbane Martin Taylor, the chief executive at Barclays, will be rubbing shoulders with the banking unions today. Fortunately for Taylor, he is fluent in a number of languages, not least of which is Mandarin.

Tread carefully

HOT off the press comes the second issue of the Treasury's Accommodation and Secretary Team bulletin. As well as numerous reminders on how not to start a fire (don't load the electrical circuits with electrical fires, electric stoves, and other electrical appliances, other than necessary office equipment), there is a tempting paragraph titled "Sicky Situations". Under desks, trodden into floors, and even around the urinals are just a few of the places that chewing gum has been found lurking. Yours Dismissed.

A sterling forecast that funds ought not to have ignored

Far-fetched sounding predictions proved to be the most reliable

Few things in life are more more pleasant than saying "I told you so" — and few things more dangerous. It is therefore with some trepidation that I turn to the annual task of reviewing the new year predictions that I made last January. My forecasts for 1996 proved remarkably successful and I am all too aware that luck has a way of turning after a winning streak. Readers may do well to bear this in mind when I publish my views about 1997.

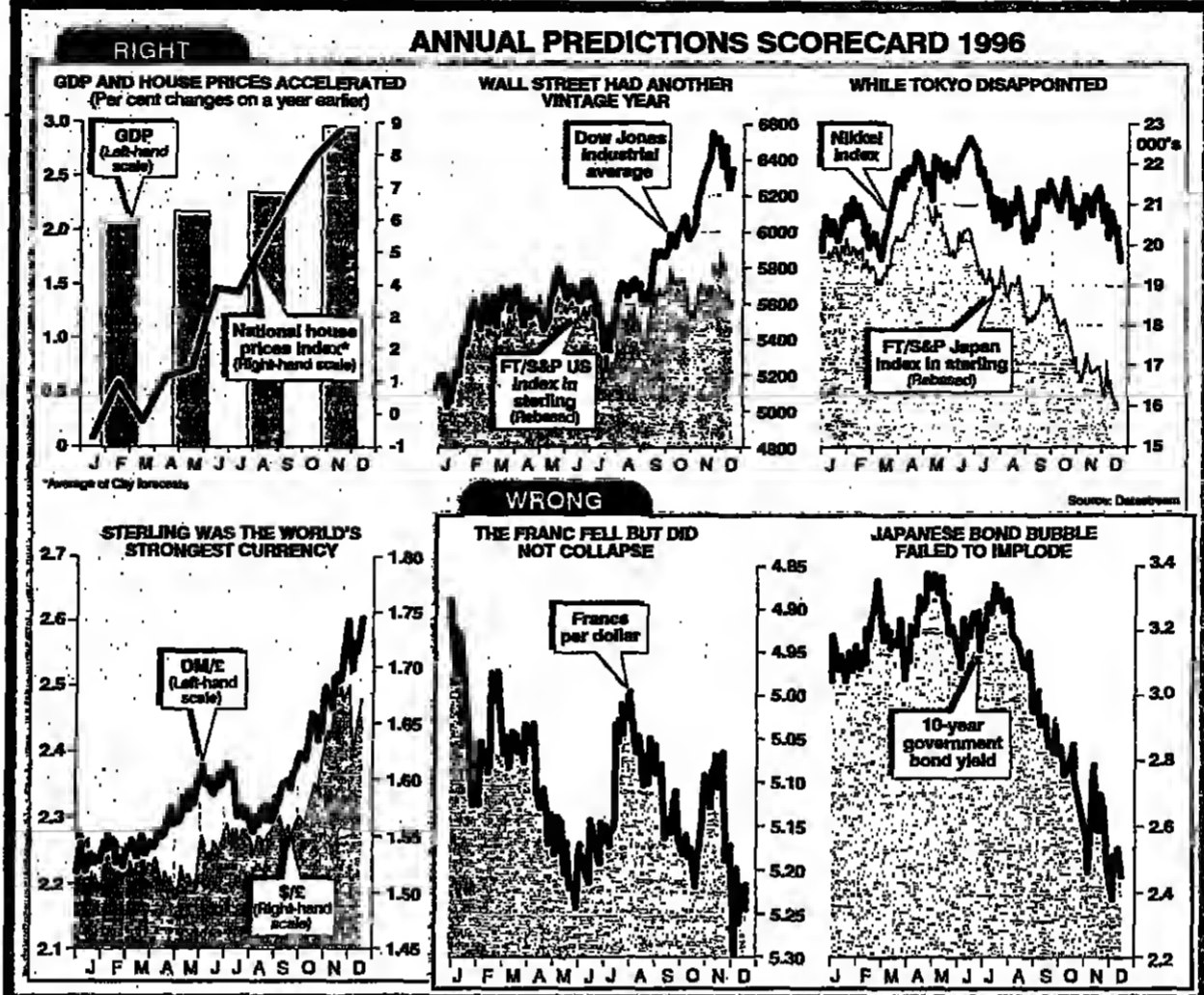
While most of the forecasts I made turned out to be right, the best ones, as usual, were the ones that seemed most far-fetched at the time. I said that the pound would be the best pick among the world's major currencies, an idea considered risible by most economists and investors a year ago. My faith in the pound was based on confidence that the British economy would grow faster than generally expected, while most other leading economies would disappoint.

As the year progressed and it became more apparent that the pound had bottomed, my confidence grew and I presented a number of other arguments in favour of sterling — among them the likelihood that a future Labour government would impose higher interest rates than the Tories, combined with a somewhat looser fiscal policy.

So far, this analysis has worked well and the pound has been easily the strongest of the major currencies. In the past few weeks sterling has shown signs of a reversal, but it is far too early to suppose that the underlying trend has again turned down. My second contrarian call, for the second year running, was about Wall Street. I stuck firmly to a view about American investment which most professional fund managers, especially in the City of London, contemptuously rejected and still reject. This view was, quite simply, that American shares were still good value and that the widely dreaded Wall Street crash was not even on the horizon.

I rejected the popular argument that dividend yields on Wall Street were too low or that the heavy rate of price gains had set the market up for a crash. Both of these propositions seemed to be based on a wishful misreading of the statistics by analysts and investors who had simply made the strategic mistake of underestimating US profits growth.

Of course, after a gain of a further 20 per cent in the past 12 months, the question of Wall Street's underlying value has to



be considered afresh and I shall try to do that on January 10. For the moment, suffice it to say that the still-dreaded crash is unlikely to happen between now and then.

My third, even more controversial, conviction was about stock markets in Japan and Asia. I was convinced that the Japanese market would go nowhere, while most of the Asian emerging markets would continue to fall.

The view among the professionals could not have been more different. Last January, the Merrill Lynch survey of British fund managers, who between them controlled assets worth more than £1,000 billion, showed bulls on Japan outnumbering bears by a record 78 percentage points.

In the event, of course, Tokyo put in a dismal performance — culminating in this week's meltdown which has taken the market to a new low for the year in yen terms and a loss of more than 20 per cent for British investors who were also exposed to the sharp fall of the yen against the pound. A year ago the professionals were also extremely optimistic about Asian emerging markets, which have in general performed even worse. These same people were overwhelmingly bullish about the prospects for Wall Street. Taking account of the profits foregone on Wall Street by redirecting money from America to Japan, the total losses for British pension funds from this one strategic blunder can be reckoned at 30 per cent or more.

with their fellows in other financial centres, most of whom made the same mistake) have now finally given up on Tokyo and the Pacific Basin. Given their recent track record this may be a signal that the Asian markets are finally worth buying — a question to which I shall return next month.

Turning to economics, I singled out Britain as the country most likely to produce a positive economic surprise, suggested that growth might also be somewhat higher than expected in America, but that growth in Germany and Japan would disappoint.

In France I foresaw an "outright recession". This was correct in technical terms, since French GDP did decline for two successive quarters, but it reflected an inaccurate assessment of the French Government's ability to stick to its commitments on European monetary union. That, in turn, led to two of the three big mistakes I made in my financial forecasts.

I thought the franc would suffer "a string of crises" and would eventually be devalued against the mark. This turned out to be wrong, although I did suggest that bets against franc could be hedged by selling francs against dollars, rather than marks. This was a chance seized with alacrity by many British and American residents in France and it yielded a profit of about 7 per cent.

I also wrongly believed that the fears about EMU would put "a surprisingly high floor" under long-term interest rates in Germany and in the rest of Europe. The reality, of course, has been very different. Al-

though German bond yields did rise in the first half of the year, surprising many investors, they have now fallen back to about last January's level.

Meanwhile, there has been the bull market of a lifetime in the bonds of other European countries, especially Italy and Spain, which were not even considered serious candidates for EMU a year ago. Arguably they are still not serious candidates, but nobody can deny the serious profits made by investors who have chosen to take them seriously.

My third big mistake also related to bonds. Like most rational people, I expected a collapse in the Japanese bond market, where insurance companies were eagerly buying fund contracts with guaranteed returns of 4 per cent or more. But instead of exploding or imploding, the Japanese bond bubble just continued to grow.

Today Japanese bonds are yielding less than 2.5 per cent — and the insurance industry is using them to guarantee returns of 3 per cent plus. I still think, as I said back in January that "the Tokyo bond market is the next Japanese financial accident waiting to happen". But the Japanese are a patient people, as well as being remarkably accident-prone. So the long wait for the next financial accident will just have to go on.

spread pessimism about consumption, jobs and housing will soon start to lift". This was not very original, in fact it was the view in the Treasury's official forecasts.

But conventional views about the consequences of stronger growth were pessimistic. For example, many forecasters were still predicting that house prices would go on falling. I said, by contrast, that housing offered "stunningly attractive" value and prices would rise by "nearer 10 per cent than the 2 or 3 per cent most experts predict". This turned out to be right, with the latest figures from the Nationwide Building Society showing a rise of 9 per cent.

I also argued that there was nothing surprising about the economic "feel-good" factor which still preoccupied political commentators a year ago: it was simply a function of the slowest growth in nominal disposable income in 40 years and would be replaced by the elusive "feel-good" factor with the return of robust economic growth. But I disagreed with the Tory economic determinists, such as Michael Heseltine, who believed (and still believe) that rising disposable incomes would automatically lift the Government's political fortunes.

I maintained (and still maintain) that, with the return of prosperity, politics would become more detached from economics. "The economic revival is unlikely to do John Major much good," I said in January. That is one prediction that I will certainly be making again in my 1997 outlook, which should appear here on January 10.

Electricity pool up to its neck in troubles

Christine Buckley assesses the latest clashes afflicting the power industry

Once again the electricity marketplace is under fire. Critics are mounting a two-pronged attack — over the price of electricity in the pool, the power trading forum, and over extra payments made to generators to ensure security of supply.

Large energy-user groups are lobbying the industry regulator and the Department of Trade and Industry for change — so far with no signs of success. Prices, they argue, are too high with generation indicating none of the price pressure promised from increased competition. The regulator had argued that more generators would create keener prices in the price-setting area of the market and ordered National Power and PowerGen to sell stations. After several months of a new player joining the two main generators and First Hydro, the peak electricity producer, no difference in electricity pool prices has materialised.

In fact since Eastern bought power stations from National Power and PowerGen the price of electricity has been unusually high with greater payments made to the generators. On top of the rewards offered to electricity producers for making stations available to feed high electricity demands are fresh incentives to combat generating instability created by gas contracts that can be interrupted. These contracts are struck between gas suppliers and generators at reduced prices on the basis that they may be temporarily halted at the wish of the supplier.

The DTI has urged the pool to institute measures to ensure security of supply. Last winter the supply system came near to collapse twice. The new payments for power station standby, staff costs and some switching from gas to more expensive fuels, along with general payments for capacity, pump up the spot price of electricity.

There are also fears that the payments will enable generators to arbitrage between the gas and electricity markets, selling their gas into the gas market and then receiving payments for switching to more expensive fuels or bringing on standby stations. The regulator cannot interfere with the pool's decision unless there is an appeal from a member of the organisation. The conflicts focus fresh attention on the much criticised electricity pool. It is by no means the first time it has been attacked in its six-year history. Recently, I Sainsbury led a group of commercial customers in withholding part of their electricity bills in protest at the rise in the cost of meters. The pool has faced calls from all energy consumer groups for it to be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Rising complaints have triggered increased pressure for demand-side bidding — large customers indicating what they want and the price they are prepared to pay.

The price of electricity in the pool comprises three parts — the price bid by the generators, payment for declaring power stations available and an amount for capacity held in reserve and constraints on the transmission system. The bid price generators receive comes not from individual bids but from the price bid by the last power station declared necessary to meet expected demand. This will be the costliest station called to run — as the cheapest are summoned first. In periods of high demand and tight availability of power stations, capacity payments can rocket. The capacity payments, which came under enormous customer fire in the summer, were designed to allow generators to recover fixed costs and realise a return on their assets.

In August the payments jumped to their highest level since privatisation. An investigation by the regulator was said to have unearthed no irregularities. From the start of the pool, established to orchestrate a privatised industry in a way that will ensure the lights stay on, doubts have hung over the likely outcome of such payments. Restriction of power station availability can "bump up" payments, which will merely improve the generators' profits. The large generators both had price caps removed earlier this year. Since then the pool selling price has jumped considerably.

6 Last winter the system twice came near to collapse?

The gal who pulls in mega-bucks

Carl Mortished checks out the charms of Barbie, the fashion icon

For designer glitter, head uptown to Madison Avenue where the very rich and the very thin buy frills and furs. This patch of New York, a block from Fifth Avenue and Central Park, houses and clothes the City's most elegant and most extravagant. But the very pinnacle of chic is not to be found at Armani, Donna Karan or Versace. Instead, walk a little further on to FAO Schwarz, where New York's famous toy emporium has erected a temple to the world's most successful fashion model. Through a plate glass window two stories high, bathed in light, is Barbara Millicent Roberts — better known as Barbie. Clad in a tight-fitting little black cocktail dress with golden tresses flying, she clutches a pink chignon scarf and croons into a microphone. She is Barbie the north singer. "Solo in the spotlight." Surrounding the floor-to-ceiling image are Barbies in display

crowned and holding the flame of liberty. There are Barbies in national dress and "My Fair Lady", Barbie as Eliza Doolittle. There is further evidence that this is no mere plastic plaything. Priced at \$200-\$300, devotees can buy Barbie as "Goddess of the Sun" designed by Christian Dior. Collectors prize such items and original Mattel Barbies from 1959 fetch upwards of \$4,000 at auction. "Yvonne Bentley, of Phillips, the auctioneer, says Barbie is a fashion icon collected by adults. "Quite a lot of men collect Barbie dolls. Barbie keeps pace with fashion trends and has become a cult. Wide skirts in the Fifties, mini-skirts in the Sixties and hot pants in the Seventies." Collectors lovingly study every detail, particularly the clothes and make-up. Even Barbie's mouth has changed over the years to the wide smile of a Cindy Crawford. Collecting is important, but a small number of Mattel's \$1.4



"Lieutenant Barbie", left, and "Happy Holidays Barbie"

children. Mattel claims that a billion Barbies have been sold worldwide since 1959. Sales in the UK are approaching £100 million a year, or some five million dolls. With such numbers, it is easy for Mattel to

festations: astronaut, air stewardess, and nurse. More recently, she was "Busy gal Barbie" the businesswoman.

Could Barbie be more than she seems? Her namesake, Saint Barbara, was a virgin martyr who lived in Asia minor in the 3rd century. Locked in a tower by a jealous father to discourage suitors, she was baptised secretly. Enraged, the father tortured and executed her. Barbie as virgin heroine is not such a fanciful concept. Throughout history, cults have emerged around female figures representing fertility and chastity without apparent contradiction. Today's gift of Barbie is a more secular practice, but fans of the doll will recognise similar characteristics: the curiously enlarged breasts on the impossibly slim, chaste frame. Back on Madison Avenue, the god is still mammon, but inside FAO Schwarz, devotees gather at Barbie's temple. A young mother with a toddler points to the huge Barbie image. "Look, Barbie, Barbie," she repeats. "Bobby, baby" gurgles the little girl. "No, Barbie, Barbie," insists moth-

WHY WOULD YOU CALL
A COMPANY THAT WORKS
BACKWARDS TO HELP
YOU MOVE FORWARD?

Serving customers worldwide, Rexene Products and CT Film have found that working backwards from customers' needs is the only way to meet their demanding specifications for polymers and specialty films. We start with customer specifications, then engineer our products to provide material solutions. CT Film is a specialty supplier of monolayer sealant films, cast embossed films, customer formulated coextrusions and film/nonwoven laminations. To better serve European markets, one of five manufacturing facilities is located in Souththorpe, England. To learn more about CT Film products, please phone 01932-850777. Rexene Products provides polyethylene and polypropylene resins for medical, electrical and specialty applications. REXtac polymers for use in adhesives, laminations and roofing materials and REXflex flexible polyolefins for use in medical, personal care and industrial applications. To learn more about Rexene Products, please phone 01932-830876.



Main table containing unit trust prices, organized into columns with headers for fund names, prices, and changes. Includes various fund categories like Equity, Bond, and Money Market.

Vertical text on the left margin: 'The pass 1600 American insure', 'Stepman stead', 'es dividend', 'are for GA', 're claim firm', 'off the ball'

GIRARD-PERREGAUX logo featuring a horse head and the text 'GIRARD-PERREGAUX pour FERRARI'.

Any... General Director of... London... Paris... New York... Tel: 011 44 181 234 2000

Table of unit trust prices for Girard-Perregaux funds, including columns for fund name, price, and change.

Table of unit trust prices for various other funds, including columns for fund name, price, and change.

Gilts and equities move higher

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: BANKS.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: BREWERIES, PUBS & REST.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: BUILDING & CONSTRUCT.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: ELECTRICITY.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: ELECTRONIC & ELECT.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: BUILDING MATERIALS.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: CHEMICALS.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: DISTRIBUTORS.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: ENGINEERING, VEHICLES.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: FOOD MANUFACTURERS.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: LEISURE & HOTELS.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: MINING.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: HEALTHCARE.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: HOUSEHOLD GOODS.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: INSURANCE.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: MEDIA.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: OTHER FINANCIAL.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: RETAILERS, FOOD.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: RETAILERS, GENERAL.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: WATER.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: PHARMACEUTICALS.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: SUPPORT SERVICES.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: PRINTING & PAPER.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: PROPERTY.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: TELECOMMUNICATIONS.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: TEXTILES & APPAREL.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: TRANSPORT.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: BRITISH FUNDS.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: SHORTS (under 5 years).

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: LONGS (over 15 years).

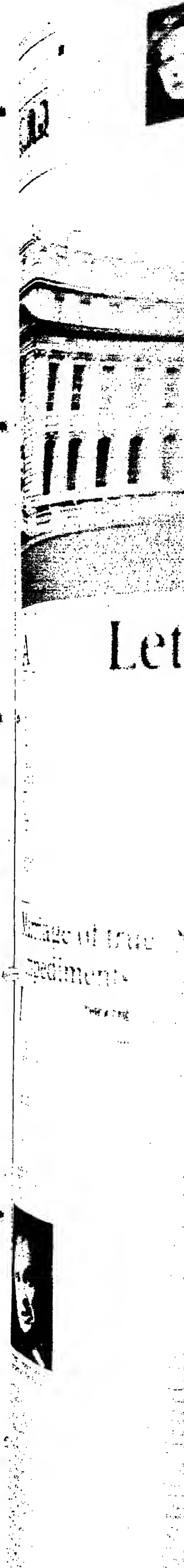
Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: UNDATED.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years).

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: INDEX-LINKED.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: RETAILERS, GENERAL.

Mikimoto advertisement featuring pearls and jewelry. Text: 'A STYLISH ARRIVAL OF EXCEPTIONAL CULTURED PEARL PARINGS AND NECKLACES SET IN 18K GOLD.' Includes contact info: '179 New Bond Street, London W1Y 3PD, Tel 0171 629 5300'.





HERITAGE

Admiralty Arch, and the history that it embodies, should be opened up to the public



THEATRE

Joanne Pearce stars in an absorbing new RSC staging of Ibsen's Little Eyolf at the Swan in Stratford

THE TIMES ARTS



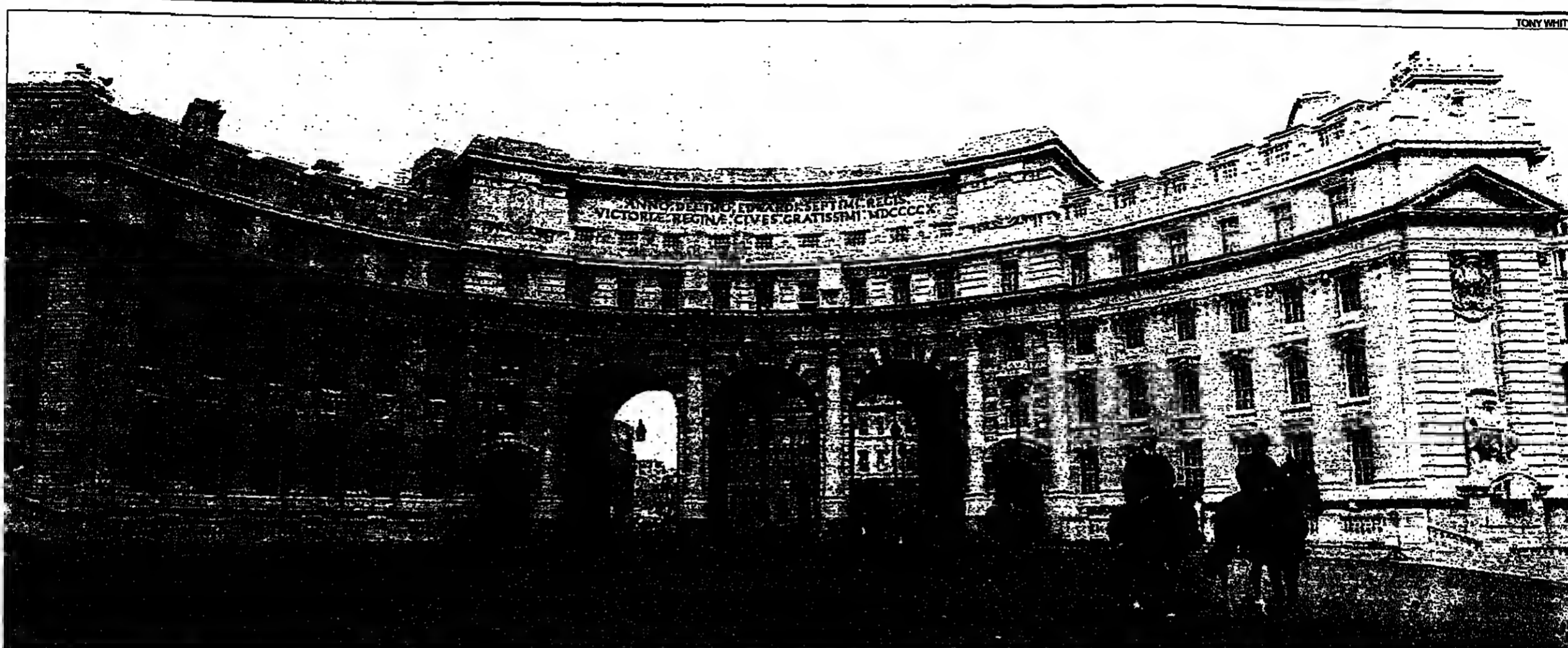
MUSIC

Music by Haydn and his contemporaries is featured in a fine concert on period instruments



TOMORROW

How does Leslie Phillips fare on his debut at the RSC? Read the verdict of Benedict Nightingale



Imposing gateway to the heart of London: "Simply removing flimsy partitions would create the most animated views in London. For the price of a coffee and cake, anyone could watch the Household Cavalry trotting up the Mall."

Let the public on board

Admiralty Arch was on the market little more than hours before it was withdrawn again. The Government, stung by the fury which greeted advertisements for the Royal Naval Hospital at Greenwich, could not face another row about "selling off the family silver". The Prime Minister has declared firmly that the mighty arch must have a public use. But this can be interpreted in two ways: a public sector use, or use that allows the public into the building.

Public access has to be the key. The archway may have been built principally as offices for the Admiralty, but making the building meet the regulations and Treasury norms for public sector offices has been costly at a cool £20 million. What a waste of the public's cash. Exploring the interior today is a depressing experience for one simple reason. Every single window is hung with the heavy duty "bomb blast" net curtains that are stan-

HERITAGE: Everyone should be able to explore the unique interior of Admiralty Arch, says Marcus Binney

dard issue in every government office. Pull them back, and every window offers ravishing views, up the Mall with its magnificent double lines of plane trees, or across to Trafalgar Square. And thanks to the deep concave recession of the façades, the view from each window is subtly different. Admiralty Arch was built to the design of Sir Aston Webb, who had the largest architectural practice of the Edwardian era. His public buildings include the main front of the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Royal Naval College at Dartmouth.

Webb won an invited competition to design a grand processional way along the Mall, centred on the newly commissioned Victoria Memorial. His winning tricks were a dramatic semi-circular colonnade facing Buckingham Palace, a huge triumphal arch facing Charing Cross, and three high archways for traffic — like the Second Empire archways through the Louvre in Paris. To the Treasury's delight, Webb abandoned his colonnades for the balustrades we see today, releasing money to reface Buckingham Palace in Portland stone.

Webb impressed the assessors by the ingenious way his receding façades concealed the twist in the road as it passed through the arch. He also pleased the salts of the Admiralty, showing how they could expand their growing empire from their adjoining palaces (where Michael Portillo has his parties) into the arch.

Webb was also told to provide a pair of houses (London's grandest semis) for the First Lord of the Admiralty and the First Sea Lord. There was only one problem. The First Lord was not told of his new house until 1909 when it was nearly complete. He flatly refused to move, asserting that his existing house had been the historic home of the First Lord since the Admiralty had been built. The Cabinet backed him. So the First Sea Lord moved into the grander townhouse. But as it was "too large for his status" the top floor was turned into offices.

Inside, the main features remain: splendid panelling, baroque fireplaces, garlanded ceilings and an astonishing marble-sided cantilevered oval stair that must be the model for the grandiose stair in the National Liberal Club, as it was rebuilt after the war. The dumbbell plan inevitably contains a great many odd-shaped rooms. It is inconceivable that any office manager would think them other than grossly substandard. But it would be a complete waste of public money to knock out solid Edwardian walls, introducing expensive underfloor cabling. The solution is simple. The arch should become a large elegant brasserie-style café-restaurant, open all day from breakfast to after-theatre suppers. Simply removing the flimsy partitions would immediately create a room with the most animated views in London. For the price of a coffee and cake, anyone could watch the Household Cavalry trotting up the Mall. Other rooms, beside the arch could be used for banquets and private functions. The rest could become a small townhouse hotel. If the most expensive hotel in London, the Lansborough, overlooks the snarling traffic around Hyde Park Corner, there must be a premium on rooms in the Arch. That way, the cost of adapting the building to modern regulations would be met by the private sector.

Marriage of true impediments

Isaac Bashevis Singer is said to have fainted dead away when, freshly arrived in New York, he opened the door of his apartment to find a towering black man who grimly told him: "I am the exterminator". Actually, he was not Death, just a man whose job was killing cockroaches. But suppose there had been an antique, black-bonneted figure on the doorstep, who introduced herself as the Rat Wife and offered to rid the house of "any troublesome thing that nibbles and gnaws, creeps and crawls". Panic and superstitious alarm would have been the appropriate responses.

Onions without centres, wild ducks, millstreams, un-

Little Eyolf Swan, Stratford

child, Eyolf, is a cripple. And when Allmers returns from an Ibsenite apotheosis in the mountains saying he means to abandon his writing career to look after Eyolf, Rita's jealous reaction is to wish their son dead. Imagine, then, the recriminations that surface when the boy promptly contrives to get drowned.

Adrian Noble, who directs, abjures the dark, operatic treatment Richard Eyre recently gave *Borkman* at the National. He strips the RSC's Swan stage of almost all the decor Ibsen specified, and asks Joanne Pearce's Rita and Robert Glenister's Allmers to expose themselves and their marriage in the kind of bright light one associates with the severer sort of confrontation therapy. Maybe as a result, they lack something in depth and density, but they give brave, emotionally unembarrassed performances. You cannot doubt her overarching possessiveness, nor his anger at himself for not feeling more. The play's ending, which reads as if it has been flung together by some sentimental social worker, comes across a lot more tentatively here. Noble knows that marital knots do not magically unravel themselves. Indeed, his *Little Eyolf* combines intelligence with dramatic clarity. It also offers sturdy supporting performances from Derbyshire Croft as Allmers's half-sister and Damian Lewis as her engineer lover.



Ibsen symbol: Bridget Turner as the Rat Wife

scalable steeples: Ibsen's work was packed with sobering symbols. But the withered visitor in *Little Eyolf* is the most daunting of all. She may think she is simply into pest control, but, without knowing it, she is talking of addictive habits, half-acknowledged haunts, and the psychological confusions that wreck the human soul. Specifically, she is talking of one of the most troubled marriages that even Ibsen managed to evoke. Admittedly, Rita and Allmers are not as alienated as the couple at the centre of John Gabriel Borkman, which Ibsen wrote just after *Little Eyolf*. They are at least on speaking terms. But they got married for all the wrong reasons. They blame each

Bravura bass, sublime Haydn

Not often does a double bass player step into the limelight (except perhaps in Ronnie Scott's), but in the latest of the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment's concert series at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, Chi-Chi Nwanoku was the centre of attention in a concerto by the 18th-century violinist and composer Karl Dittersdorf. The piece was written for a Viennese bass player whom Dittersdorf referred to as "the brave" Pichelberger, and courage was undoubtedly one of the qualities required to tackle this showpiece of technical bravura.

Nwanoku gritted her teeth and gave a spirited performance of the Concerto No 2 in E flat, with her bass (a 17th-century Arnald) retuned a semitone higher to make the key more feasible and the tone of the instrument brighter. Huge leaps, a striking use of harmonics and chattering passage-work characterised the writing for bass in the outer movements, while the central Adagio worked a more lyrical vein. It was a veritable *tour de force*, which Nwanoku brought off with aplomb despite some initial nervousness.

CONCERTS

THE annual Christmas festival promoted by Magenta Music at St John, Smith's Square, is under way with its usual blend of the familiar and the less well-known. Sunday evening's concert fell into the latter category, although Spanish Renaissance polyphony in general has established its corner in the early music world. Camerata Higanica, a recently formed group of young musicians mostly of Spanish origin, is dedicated to the furtherance of our knowledge. On this occasion, the group comprised three members from Catalonia and a Venezuelan soprano. Two, the tenor Lluís Vilamajo and the bass-baritone Pau Bordas, initially trained in Catalonia.

and with one voice to a part, a performance mode rarely encountered in Spain. The programme they presented was, naturally, a Christmas one, with motets and villancicos (a

loose equivalent of the English medieval carol) from 16th-century Spain. St John's was really too large a performing space and the acoustic tended to favour the lower voices, but there is no doubt of this group's lively and polished approach.

TESS KNIGHTON

Authentic pioneer spirit

ONCE a group of musical pioneers, the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields now seems rather an old-fashioned chamber orchestra. Indeed, trading on its glory years, when it spearheaded the Baroque revival of the 1960s and gave refreshingly lean accounts of the Classical repertoire, it now lags far behind today's enterprising "period" bands.

Only in one respect is it more "authentic" than most of these "authentic" groups: it often plays without a conductor. Eighteenth-century performances were directed from the keyboard or by the leading violinist, and at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on its latest London outing the Academy was again led by one of its violinist-directors, Kenneth Sillito. We heard four polished performances, but all needed a firmer interpretative hand. At least they were in a good cause: this was the Academy's Christmas concert in aid of London's homeless.

and fear, in 1914. Modal passages recall Vaughan Williams's *Tallis Fantasia*, and this performance captured the music's elegiac mood. The Bach, dating from the year of Mozart's birth, is a work full of vigour and sudden dynamic contrasts. Its spiky first movement brought out the best in the orchestra, which over the years has not lost its familiar, lively and spirited sound.

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CHOICE 1

Carols galore: the choirs congregate on the South Bank

VENUE: This weekend, Festival Hall, QEH

CHOICE 2

The LSO plays songs from shows by Sondheim and others

VENUE: Tonight and Sunday at the Barbican

THE TIMES ARTS

DANCE

The Royal Ballet presents a stylish revival of Frederick Ashton's delightful *Cinderella*

JAZZ

Kenny Wheeler wears his talent modestly in a class demonstration of trumpet playing

LONDON

MUSIC IN THE CITY A hectic musical weekend at the Barbican begins with a concert by the London Symphony Orchestra under Martin Yates. Stars from some of the musicals currently playing in the West End join the LSO and the English Concert Singers to perform songs from the shows, including *Music of Sondheim* and *As I Was with You*. The Phantom of the Opera, *Sordid in the Streets* from *A Little Night Music*, and *Moby-Dick* from *Coal*. Sat, 8pm. £12.50. (0171- 638 8811) Tonight, 7.30pm; repeated on Sunday, 7.30pm

WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Massey

DECEASED In 18th-century costumes, the orchestra offers an evening of favourite carols and songs. With Angela Tansill, soprano, Graham State-Peters, baritone, and the Mozart Festival Chorus. Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (0171- 638 4242) Sunday, 7.30pm. £5

LONDON GALLERIES

Alan Cristies. Colour Etching (0171- 439 1956) British Museum. *Mysteries of Ancient China*. Japanese Arts (0171-638 1650) Camden Arts Centre. Richard Tuttle. Grey Walls. Work (0171-435 2543) Courtyard, St. William's Chambers. Artchive to George III (0171-473 2528) Hayward. Beyond Reason. Art and Technology. Works from the Pinchot Collection (0171-928 5144) Leeson. Rodney Graham (0171-724 2739) National Gallery. Making and Meaning. Rubens's Landscapes (0171- 747 2855) National Portrait. John Kobal Photographs. Portrait Award 1996 (0171-306 0255) Portland. Twentieth Century Scottish Artists (0171- 321 0422)

Charming all the way

The Royal Ballet's contribution to the Christmas dance fest is its *Cinderella*, choreographed by Frederick Ashton in 1948 and performed more than 300 times at Covent Garden. Unlike *The Nutcracker*, which is a product of late 19th-century Russian classicism, *Cinderella* is a homage, looking back to the grand



There is so much brilliant and beautiful writing in Ashton's *Cinderella*, and the Royal showed us how to read it

aesthetic which informed the St Petersburg tradition. Ashton's model was Petipa, and Ashton's ballet is every bit worthy of the old master himself. Seen close on the heels of the Kirov Ballet (which is offering a rather scrappy *Nutcracker* down the road at the Coliseum), the Royal puts paid to any idea that Russians automatically do it better. Wednesday night's *Cinderella* cast, corps de ballet and soloists alike, were all plugged into the sublime classical instinct that should be second nature to everyone at the Kirov, but isn't.

The lucidity of the Covent Garden ensemble in Acts II and III burnished the ornate architecture of Ashton's choreography, making it shimmer gloriously against David Walker's majestic palace setting. There is so much brilliant and beautiful writing in this ballet, and on Wednesday night a meticulously rehearsed Royal showed us how to read it.

Miyako Yoshida was making her debut as Cinderella, which must be a dream role for her. She is the kind of dancer who relies on the steps to speak for her, and when the choreography is as articulate as this, Yoshida is in her element. She started a bit slowly in the kitchen scene, but once she got going there was no stopping the flow of lyrically charged movement. Her Cinderella was radiant, eager and tenderly expressive. Her alert musicality enriched the choreography simply by listening so astutely to the score and being aware of the nuances that are sometimes overlooked in the sweep of Prokofiev's heavy writing. Another Covent

Garden debut, that of the Russian conductor Alexander Vedernikov, helped her along, lightening the musical load by taking the score at a clip. Beside Yoshida stood Bruce Sansom's Prince, supportive, affectionate and genuinely affecting, dancing wondrously and acting with real ardour. The moment in Act III when he finally unmasked his mystery lady was a snippet of intimate magic that reverberated around the auditorium. In contrast to the romantic

DEBRA CRAINE

ART Albert Finney, Tom Courtenay and Ken Stott in an exceptionally interesting drama about friendship, unrequited romance and an almost all-white carnival. *Matthew Winch* by Wynne Evans. Charing Cross Rd, WC2 (0171-369 1736) Tue-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, 3pm, Sat and Sun, 5pm

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

House full, returns only

Seals at all prices

CLARE BURT AND ELIZABETH DAVID *Decease*. Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-389 1732) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm

PLUNDER *Cliff Rhyne Jones and John Mackay* in a merry, rough-hewn musical. Bon Travers Lane. With Kewen McNally and Sara Crowe. Swanley, Kent. WC2 (0171-826 8888) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 2.30pm

NEW RELEASES

EVITA (PG) Madonna sings with passion, but production overall plays down her vocal talents. With Antonio Banderas and Jonathan Pryce. Directed by Alan Parker. Cohen West End (01426-915 574)

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and where to see them

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The best comes last

OPERA

Les fêtes d'Hébé Barbican

LES Arts Florissants paid a welcome visit to the Barbican on Wednesday to make the case for yet another neglected work of the 18th-century French stage. Jean-Philippe Rameau's opera-ballet *Les fêtes d'Hébé*. It did so in a concert performance that started with some bumpy playing and less than distinguished singing. But Rameau saves the best numbers, indeed some of his most ravishing music, for the later acts, and by the end it was easy to appreciate why this became one of the composer's greatest successes.

Bop till you smile

Kenny Wheeler

IF Kenny Wheeler finally feels relaxed in the knowledge that he is among this country's most admired resident musicians, he shows little sign of it. Despite being confronted with a packed Vortex whose audience hung on his every note and applauded all his solos, the Toronto-born trumpeter was characteristically self-effacing throughout two hour-long sets during which he led the house band (guitarist John Parricelli, pianist Huw Warren, bassist Steve Watts and drummer Martin France) through a selection of his most accessible compositions.

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"BUDDY" A New play by Yvonne Raza

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Whether building work is construction or alteration

Commissioners of Customs and Excise v Marchday Holdings Ltd
Before Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Lord Justice Aldous and Lord Justice Ward
[Judgment December 11]
Work carried out on an existing building could amount to more than its conversion, reconstruction, alteration or extension so as to be zero-rated under the Value Added Tax Act 1983.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment by a majority, Lord Justice Ward dissenting, dismissing an appeal by the Commissioners of Customs and Excise from the decision of Mr Justice Laws (1995) STC 898 of their appeal against a decision of a VAT tribunal in favour of Marchday Holdings Ltd.

Mr Nigel Fleming, QC, for the Commissioners, Mr Rodrick Cordara, QC, and Miss Perdita Cargill-Thompson for Marchday.

LORD JUSTICE STUART-SMITH said that the tribunal had allowed the company's appeal against a decision of the commissioners regarding the treatment for value-added tax purposes of a construction project carried out by the company at 44-52 Banner Street, City of London.

The question at issue concerned the entitlement of the company to input tax credit which depended on whether the supply to which it was attributable, namely, the supply of a major interest in, or in any part of, the building, was zero-rated under item 1 of group 8 of Schedule 5 to the 1983 Act.

That turned on whether the company was a person constructing a building within item 1 or whether the case fell within the exclusion in item 1A to item 1. The commissioners held that it fell within the exclusion and was therefore standard-rated, the tribunal did not fall within the exclusion and was zero-rated.

Where a supply was zero-rated within section 16 of the 1983 Act the consequences, by section 16(1), were that no tax would be charged on the supply, but in all other respects it would be treated as a taxable supply. The result was that the taxpayer would be entitled to credit in respect of input tax upon supplies made to him in connection with zero-rated supplies made by him.

Section 16(2) provides: "A supply of goods or services is zero-rated by virtue of this subsection if the goods or services are of a description for the time being specified in Schedule 5 to this Act or the supply is of a description for the time being so specified."

The relevant part of Schedule 5 was group 8, the material items of which were:
"1) The granting by a person constructing a building of a major interest in, or in any part of, the building...
"2) The supply in the course of the construction or demolition of any building... of any services..."

By note (1A) to these items (1) and (2) any extension or annexation to an existing building which provides for internal access to the existing building... and the reference in item 1 to a person constructing a building shall be construed accordingly.

"The critical question the tribunal had to answer was whether the work carried out at the site amounted to the conversion, reconstruction, alteration or enlargement of an existing building within item 1A."
"There was an existing building before the company commenced any work. However, the appearance of the building's facade was wholly different from what it was before any works were started."

The tribunal said: "The question which we must ask ourselves is whether the work done... amounted to the conversion, reconstruction, alteration or enlargement of the existing building... or whether the end result is a new building."
"It was Mr Fleming's submission that the tribunal fell into error in considering whether the end result was a new building. The sole question, he contended, was whether there had been a conversion, reconstruction, alteration or enlargement of the building that existed before any work was done."

The judge rejected that submission. His Lordship agreed with Mr Fleming's construction did not give any or sufficient weight to the word "existing".
Mr Cordara was correct in submitting that the reference in note (1A) to existing building supported the conclusion that what had still to be there after the conversion, alteration or enlargement was something that as a matter of common sense had to be described as the existing building.
A reasonable man who was fully informed as to the work carried out should be able to say whether or not the old building had been altered. That was a jury question and was very much a question of fact, degree and impression.

LORD JUSTICE WARD, dissenting, said that nowhere did the tribunal ask the question which was the prerequisite for treating the supplies as zero-rated: "construction" means erecting a building or the construction of any building?
The answer was in *Customs and Excise Commissioners v Viva Gas Appliances Ltd* [1983] STC 819, 823, where Lord Diplock had said: "construction" means erecting the building as a whole and "demolition" means destroying it as a whole, so "alteration" is left to cover all the works to the fabric of the building which fall short of complete erection or complete demolition."
If fact and degree determined "construction" why then should it not also determine "demolition"? That would cause havoc in the building industry.

When the home owner wished to have a grand large drawing room in place of his small front room and his back parlour, was that a work of conversion of the existing building?
To his Lordship's mind, the meaning of Schedule 5 was clear and simple. If there was a construction of a whole building where no building was in existence when the work started, or if the demolition was of the entire building, then the supply was almost inevitably standard-rated because, unless it was de minimis, the work would inevitably fall within the description of conversion, reconstruction, alteration or enlargement.

Solicitors: Solicitor, Customs and Excise; Mainprice & Co.

EC principles do not apply to domestic law

Regina v Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food and Another. Ex parte First City Trading and Others
Before Mr Justice Laws
[Judgment November 29]

The fundamental principles of European Community law as formulated by the European Court of Justice, such as equal treatment and non-discrimination, had no application to an action or a decision taken by a member state under domestic law unless and to the extent that the decision was taken in order to implement powers or duties conferred or imposed by Community law.

Accordingly, those principles did not apply to the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food's beef stocks transfer scheme which gave effect to the Slaughtering Industry (Emergency Aid) Scheme 1996 and which, although designed to provide financial aid in response to the European Commission's decision 96/239/EC of March 27, 1996 (OJ 1996 L78/47) prohibiting the export of beef slaughtered in the United Kingdom, was not devised in order to implement Community law.

Mr Justice Laws, sitting in the Queen's Bench Division, so held in a reserved judgment given in connection with an application for judicial review by frozen meat exporters, First City Trading Ltd, Meat Marketing Services (UK) Ltd, Meat Supplies (Wholesale) Ltd, Carrex August Ltd, Widdell Swift Ltd and Swallow Foods International, against the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) and the Intervention Board for Agricultural Products (IBAP), in respect of the beef stocks transfer scheme, which provided financial aid to meat exporters with slaughtering and cutting facilities in response to the Commission decision.

The applicants challenged the legality of the scheme on the ground that it discriminated unfairly and without any objective justification in favour of most exporters with their own slaughtering and cutting facilities and against those such as the applicants without such facilities; and that the scheme was thus in breach of the fundamental principle of Community law, namely, the principle of equal treatment or non-discrimination.

Mr Nicholas Green for the applicants; Mr Kenneth Parker, QC, for MAFF and IBAP.

MR JUSTICE LAWS said that the general or fundamental principle of European Community law undoubtedly included the principle of equal treatment, or non-discrimination, requiring decision-makers to treat like cases alike unless there existed an objective justification to discriminate.

In deciding whether the Community rule applied to the scheme, his Lordship had first to consider what was the correct test by which to resolve the question.

Mr Green relied on the European Court of Justice decision in *Case C-92/92 Phil Collins v Intrat Handelsgesellschaft mbH* [1993] 3 CMLR 773 where the court held that the German national law of copyright fell within the scope of the application of article 7(1) of the EC Treaty which prohibited discrimination on the ground of nationality.

Mr Green also relied on *R v Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, ex parte Hamble Fisheries* [1995] 2 All ER 714 for the proposition that where a national measure operated in a Community context, the measure's legality was subject to the fundamental principles of Community law; and that the test for the application of article 7(1) was the same as that for the general principles of Community law expounded by the European Court.

He further submitted that the present case was in any event governed by article 40(3) of the EC Treaty which provided: "The common organisation of agricultural markets... shall exclude any discrimination between producers or consumers within the Community."

Mr Parker submitted that the general principles of Community law applied only where the decision or the act complained of was taken or done in the exercise of a power, or the fulfilment of a duty imposed by Community law; a narrower test than the test for the application of the Treaty provisions themselves; see *Case 201 and 202/85 Klesch v Secretaire d'Etat a l'Agriculture et a la Viticulture* (1986) ECR 3477.

In *Case C-2/92 R v MAFF, Ex parte Bostock* (The Times May 11, 1994) [1994] ECR I-483, his Lordship did not understand the court to imply any proposition of principle wider than that the protection of fundamental Community rights bound member states when they implemented Community law.

If the fundamental principles of Community law enjoyed as wide a scope as did article 7 prohibition against discrimination on the ground of nationality, they ought to apply to the scheme. Did the fundamental principles have a narrower scope because of the administrative law of the member states and were part of the common law of the Community?

It was by no means self-evident that their contextual scope had to be the same as that of the Treaty provisions relating to discrimination or equal treatment, which were statute law taking effect according to their express terms.

There was a critical distinction to be drawn between the following situations:
On the one hand a member state might take a purely domestic measure solely by virtue of its domestic law which neither required of it nor permitted to it by

virtue of Community Treaty provisions. Even so, it might affect the operation of the common market and accordingly be held to be "within the scope of application of the Treaty" as in *Phil Collins*.

That was not the same thing as its being done under powers or duties conferred or imposed by Community law.

On the other hand a Community institution or member state might take measures which it was authorised or obliged to take by force of the law of the Community.

The second situation primarily included measures which Community law required, such as, for example, law made to give effect to a Directive, or an act done or decision taken by a member state in reliance on a derogation or permission granted by Community law.

In the first situation, the measure was in no sense a function of the law of Europe, although its legal effect might be constrained by it. In the second, the measure was necessarily a creature of the law of Europe.

Treaty law was in the shape of a command and might intrude into areas previously free of any legal control because of the sovereign force of the legislation.

But it was to be sharply distinguished from law made by a court of limited jurisdiction, such as the European Court. The legitimacy of that law depended upon its being elaborated by the court within the confines of the power which it was already endowed, its writ could not run where it could not run before.

The European Court had no inherent jurisdiction. Its authority derived solely from the Treaties and although its decisions were as a matter of English law supreme,

its supremacy ran only within its appointed limits.
The power of the European Court to apply principles of public law which it had itself evolved could not be deployed in a case where the measure in question, taken by a member state, was not a function of Community law at all. To do so would be to condition or moderate the internal law of the member state without being authorised by the Treaty.

Where action was taken, albeit under domestic law, which fell within the scope of the Treaty's application, then of course the court had the power and the duty to require that the Treaty be adhered to; but no more.

Precisely because the fundamental principles elaborated by the European Court were not vouchsafed by the Treaty, there was no legal space for their application to any measure or decision taken otherwise than in pursuance of Treaty rights and obligations.

It followed that in the first situation described there was no question of the application of the Community's internal fundamental principles.

The position was altogether different where a measure was adopted pursuant to Community law, that was to say, its application to any measure or decision taken otherwise than in pursuance of Treaty rights and obligations.

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Queen's Bench Division

MR JUSTICE LAWS said that the general or fundamental principle of European Community law undoubtedly included the principle of equal treatment, or non-discrimination, requiring decision-makers to treat like cases alike unless there existed an objective justification to discriminate.

In deciding whether the Community rule applied to the scheme, his Lordship had first to consider what was the correct test by which to resolve the question.

Mr Green relied on the European Court of Justice decision in *Case C-92/92 Phil Collins v Intrat Handelsgesellschaft mbH* [1993] 3 CMLR 773 where the court held that the German national law of copyright fell within the scope of the application of article 7(1) of the EC Treaty which prohibited discrimination on the ground of nationality.

Mr Green also relied on *R v Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, ex parte Hamble Fisheries* [1995] 2 All ER 714 for the proposition that where a national measure operated in a Community context, the measure's legality was subject to the fundamental principles of Community law; and that the test for the application of article 7(1) was the same as that for the general principles of Community law expounded by the European Court.

He further submitted that the present case was in any event governed by article 40(3) of the EC Treaty which provided: "The common organisation of agricultural markets... shall exclude any discrimination between producers or consumers within the Community."

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APPOINTMENTS

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The University Council invite applications for the office of Registrar, which will become vacant on 1 October 1997 by the retirement of Dr SG Foot.
The Registry is the head of the University's administrative services, and the principal adviser to the Vice-Chancellor on administrative matters.
Persons interested in applying are asked to first seek full particulars from the Vice-Chancellor, at the following address:
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The Old Schools,
Cambridge CB2 1TN.
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VAT zero-rating for charity

Commissioners of Customs and Excise v Royal Society of Arts, Manufacture and Commerce
Before Mr Justice Scott Baker
[Judgment November 29]
Goods or services supplied to a charity to produce a poster promoting the aims of the charity were zero-rated for value-added tax only if supplied in connection with the publication of the advertisement and not just in connection with its preparation.

Mr Justice Scott Baker so stated in a reserved judgment in the Queen's Bench Division when allowing an appeal by the Commissioners of Customs and Excise against a decision of the VAT tribunal of March 11, 1996 to allow an appeal by the Royal Society of Arts, Manufacture and Commerce against an assessment that tax was payable at the standard rate on certain posters.

The society was a charity registered for VAT as part of a group registration.
Part of the group dealt with the production and distribution of the relevant posters. Another company in the group did the printing. The design was done outside the group and the posters finished off outside the group.

Mr Kenneth Parker, QC for the commissioners; Mr Andrew Hinchmorn for the RSA.

MR JUSTICE SCOTT BAKER said that the decision would affect other charities and the revenue implications were considerable. The appeal turned on the true construction of item 8 of group 15 of Schedule 8 to the Value Added Tax Act 1994.

Group 15 conferred zero-rating on certain supplies to charities. Item 8 was in the following terms: "The supply to a charity, for the purposes of raising money for... the charity of (a) the publication of

an advertisement in any newspaper... poster or similar publication; or (b) any goods or services to connect with the preparation of an advertisement within (b) above."

The issue on appeal was the meaning of (a). On assessing the legislative history of the provision his Lordship was satisfied that the purpose of item 8 was to assist charities to acquire the services of publication of advertisements from a third-party supplier. It was not to help promote in-house advertising.

Item 8(c) zero-rated goods or services supplied in connection with the publication of an advertisement qualifying under (b) and not just with its preparation. The poster in the present case did not fall within item 8(c) and accordingly did attract VAT at the standard rate.

Solicitors: Solicitor, Customs and Excise; Band Hutton, Coventry.
Solicitors: Clyde & Co; Treasury Solicitor.

Scots Law Report December 20 1996 Court of Session

Over-implementation of EC scheme allowed
Scottish Premier Meat Ltd v Secretary of State for Scotland
Before Lord Coulsfield
[Judgment October 14]
Although the EC Commission regulation laying down a scheme for the slaughter of British cattle more than 30 months old because of the BSE disease required merely that when such animals were being slaughtered on cattle intended for human or animal consumption should be present in the slaughterhouse, it could not be said at the interim remedies stage that it was plainly ultra vires of the Crown to go further and exclude from the scheme all slaughterhouses which undertook any slaughtering of animals for human or animal consumption.

Lord Coulsfield, sitting in the Outer House of the Court of Session, so held, refusing a motion by Scottish Premier Meat Ltd for interim orders to a petition brought by the company for judicial review of a decision of the secretary of

Managing to survive on the merry-go-round



Cruyff in wide demand

Johan Cruyff put it well and wisely the other day. "I've always said that it wasn't out of the ordinary for a manager to come to a club and build a great team," he said. "It's enough to have good players and a little luck. As against that, to keep the club on top is always a little problematic."

Cruyff should know. Though Barcelona parted company with him this year after a long, torrid, contentious, sporadically successful reign, he remains in enormous demand. He could go back to his beloved Ajax if he wants, at the end of the season, when Louis van Gaal leaves.

Franz Beckenbauer, Cruyff's old friend and rival from the great days of Total Football, would like him at Bayern Munich. Spanish and Italian clubs are interested. This, despite the way he was perennially at loggerheads with Barcelona's president, Josep Lluís Núñez, and often with such stars as Michael Laudrup and Hristo Stoichkov.

Even when Cruyff was in charge at Ajax, when young prodigies such as Marco van Basten worshipped him, his autocratic ways were such that Frank Rijkaard could not wait to get away.

So the myth and mystery of the manager remain. What should he do, what does he do? Should he crack the whip like Cruyff or Brian Clough? Should he be out on the training field, paying infinite attention to detail, as Roy Hodgson is doing in Milan with Internazionale, whose defence keeps collapsing just the same?

"Kind, but with a strong hand," Vittoria Pozzo, the great Italian mentor who won two World Cups between the wars, used to say. "If I let them make mistakes, I lose my authority." And he was often out on the training pitch.

Clough rarely was. As often as not, he might simply show up in the dressing-room just before a game. "Have you ever been punched in the stomach, young man?" he

On the day Frank Clark threw in the towel, Brian Glanville finds what it takes to succeed

asked his unlucky young centre forward, Nigel Jemson, now at Oxford United, on one such occasion: then suited the action to the words.

When he did turn up at the training ground, Peter Shilton — due to celebrate his 1,000th League appearance when he plays for Leyton Orient on Sunday — said that the impact was great. "It was attitude training."

With his remarkable partnership with the late Peter Taylor, resampling nothing so much as football's version of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, Clough had success with both Derby County and Nottingham Forest, none at all at Leeds United, where the players drove him out after 44 days, nor at Brighton, where he demoralised the team. What works at one place

does not necessarily work at others. Thus Joe Kinnear, who has worked wonders at Wimbledon, is probably right to refuse lucrative offers and stay there. A kind of guerrilla general, he is utterly the right man for the job, defending club and team with sometimes excessive sensitivity.

When he mistakenly thought Gary Lineker had said Wimbledon were worth watching only on *Ceefax*, Kinnear, feeling persecuted, embattled and unappreciated, was pushed to ever greater effort on the training field and in the transfer market.

Blackburn Rovers, now, are to pay Svein Goran Eriksson a fortune to leave Sampdoria for Ewood Park. Will it be money well spent? Can Eriksson, for all his huge European experience, do more for

Blackburn than their modest, unambitious stopgap, the estimable Tony Parkes? And why, with all due respect, does Eriksson want to come to Blackburn at all, a club which could even drop out of the FA Carling Premiership, when the likes of Lazio would evidently be glad to have him back.

I have known and appreciated Eriksson for many years: a man of charm, honesty and competence. Blackburn clearly hope he will emulate Arsene Wenger, who has the same qualities and is doing remarkably well with a far-from-dazzling Arsenal team he took over with the season well advanced.

Recently, the curiously named Nigerian forward, Victor Ipebe, paid tribute to Wenger, and the way he helped him at Monaco — just as George Weah has done.

What one can say, surely, is that every managerial career is finite — the triumphant exception that proves the rule being the remarkable Guy Roux, 30 years at

Auxerre, who actually won the French championship last season, and endlessly produces fine players. But managerial pressures are immense. If, on the Continent, the manager does not have to be a marketer, he is often prey to pressures from fans and the media unknown in Britain.

Bill Shankly quit Liverpool while he was ahead. Alex Ferguson, ten years at Old Trafford, has, over the past couple of seasons, been prone to strange tactical errors and manifest mistakes in the transfer market.

"I never knew," Brian Mears, when he was chairman of Chelsea and Dave Sexton was no longer delivering the goods, said, "that managers need motivating too."

"You don't know what's going on in a club," Jesse Carver, the one English manager to win a postwar Italian championship, said. "No one does." He may have been right, for the myth and the mystery continue.

FOOTBALL

United disclaim reports of £20m bid for Batistuta

By Russell Kempson

MANCHESTER United have denied reports that they have made a world record offer of £20 million for Gabriel Batistuta, the Argentine and Fiorentina forward. *Corriere dello Sport*, the Italian newspaper, claimed yesterday that Martin Edwards, the United chairman and chief executive, faxed a bid to Fiorentina late last week.

United were also reported to have offered £7 million for Stefan Schwarz, the Sweden and former Arsenal midfielder player, who also plays for Fiorentina. Vittorio Cecchi Gori, president of the Italian Cup holders, is said to be considering the approaches, despite having recently persuaded Batistuta, the club captain, to sign a new contract.

However, United issued an immediate and curt response to the stories. "It is absolute rubbish," Ken Ramsden, the Old Trafford press officer, said. "It was a similar reaction to that of Robert Coar, the Blackburn Rovers chairman, after his club had been linked, also by *Corriere dello Sport*, to Rui Costa, the Portugal midfielder player, and Lorenzo Amoruso, the Italian defender. They, too, play for Fiorentina.

"Rubbish," Coar said, Rovers reportedly having offered £11 million for Rui Costa, who played for Portugal during Euro 96, and £7 million for Amoruso. Apparently, the

moves had been authorised by Sven Goran Eriksson, the present coach of Sampdoria who will become Blackburn's manager during the summer.

Batistuta's contract takes him through to 2000, with an option until 2001, while Rui Costa has signed up until 2001. Though Batistuta's form is short of his best and the team is struggling in mid-table in Serie A, he is hugely popular with the supporters.

Fiorentina have also reached the quarter-finals of the European Cup Winners' Cup. In which they play Benfica next year, and it is unlikely that supporters would forgive Cecchi Gori if he were to sell the club's prize asset.

Alan Shearer, of Newcastle United, David Seaman, of Arsenal, Steve McManaman, of Liverpool, and Peter Schmeichel and Gary Neville, the Manchester United pair, are to play for a Europe XI against an Africa XI in Lisbon on January 29. The match will open an under-17 youth tour-

namment between teams from both continents to raise money for various football projects in Africa. It will also launch the "European Year Against Racism" campaign, which has been organised by Uefa, the sport's governing body in Europe.

Christian Ziege, Jürgen Klinsmann and Andreas Möller, of Germany, Paolo Maldini and Alessandro del Piero, of Italy, and Alen Boksic, of Croatia, will also feature in the Europe line-up.

Mike Newell, the Birmingham City forward, has joined West Ham United on a month's loan, with a view to a permanent move. Newell, formerly of Blackburn and Everton, cost Birmingham £700,000 when he left Ewood Park in the summer.

He scored only one goal in seven Nationwide League first division games before asking to go on the transfer list two months ago, after telling Trevor Francis, the Birmingham manager, that he was unable to settle in the Midlands. He could make his debut for West Ham against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge tomorrow.

Bolton Wanderers have signed John Sheridan, the experienced Sheffield Wednesday midfielder player. Bolton have agreed to pay £180,000 for the Ireland international, with Wednesday receiving a further £25,000 if Bolton win promotion to the FA Carling Premiership.

Sheridan, 32, who started his career at Leeds United, spent a recent loan spell at Burnley. He is expected to play in the first division game away to Swindon Town on Sunday.

Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, is to take another look at Vlad Kinder, 26, the Slovakia left back, after he did well in a reserve match. Robson has already contacted Slovak Bratislava, Kinder's club. "I quite liked what I saw," Robson said. "There could be a deal for Vlad if he continues to impress."



Swimmers in the men's 200 metres freestyle make a splash at the start of the heats

Hickman set for stiff test

By Craig Lord

ORGANISERS of the British swimming championships might be wise to make sure that they have enough bottle to cope with the ambitions of James Hickman. That way, they might avoid a repeat of the French farce of February this year, when two world records by Denis Pankratov, of Russia, could not be ratified because organisers of the World Cup event had run out of drug-test vessels.

Voted Young Manxman of the Year last month, Hickman, 20, yesterday set the pace at Pond's Forge pool in Sheffield with a British short-course record of 53.30sec in the

100 metres butterfly heats. He intends to add the world short-course record over 200 metres tomorrow (presently Imin 53.06sec, against Pankratov's disallowed Imin 52.34sec).

Shame, then, that for the last three of the four days of the championships, there will be no drug-testing. Should Hickman achieve his ambition, test equipment will have to be brought in within 24 hours for the record to count.

Hickman's good form, a continuation of the success he enjoyed in making finals at the Olympic Games, is testament to the job being done by Dave Calleja, his coach, at Stockport

Metro. His other charge is Graeme Smith, the bronze medal-winner in the 1,500 metres freestyle in Atlanta.

Smith yesterday withdrew from the final of the 1,500 after swimming the heats, on the grounds that he is working to improve his sprint speed, essential if he is to stand a chance of a gold medal in Sydney 2000. He will avoid meeting Ian Wilson, winner of the silver medal at the European short-course championships last weekend, and concentrate on the 200 metres and 400 metres in Sheffield.

Results, page 34

Vimpani plunders weakened attack

GRAEME VIMPAI, Victoria's young opening batsman, scored his maiden first-class century yesterday as the state side compiled 354 on the opening day of their four-day match against the West Indians at Wangaratta. Poor fielding again hampered the touring side, led by Brian Lara, for they dropped three catches and conceded 38 extras.

Vimpani hit 17 boundaries in his 133, made from 202 balls, and put Victoria in a strong position at 221 for four before they were pegged back by Nixon McLean, who took five for 48, finishing the innings with successive deliveries.

McLean was the spearhead of the attack in the absence of Courtney Walsh and Curtly Ambrose, who were resting in preparation for next week's third Test, in which West Indies must at least avoid defeat to keep the series alive. Jimmy Adams, the slow left-arm bowler, again proved effective, following his five wickets against Pakistan in the World Series Cup on Tuesday by taking three for 52.

New man for Minardi

MOTOR RACING: Minardi, the Formula One team, have signed Ukyo Katayama, of Japan, to drive for them during the 1997 season. Katayama, 33, had been with Tyrrell, the British team, since 1993. He will join the Italian team on January 7, Minardi said yesterday. "I think that Minardi will be a big surprise for many in the course of the season," Katayama said.

Minardi said last month that they had begun a "long-term plan" to improve their form, bringing in new investors and signing a deal for exclusive use of Hart V8 engines and another two-year deal with Bridgestone tyres. They also plan to unveil the new Minardi M197 by mid-January, but have yet to name a second driver.

Women's role for Noah

TENNIS: Yannick Noah, who has won the Davis Cup twice in five years as captain of the French men's side, will lead the women's team in the Fed Cup in Japan in March. "The decision will be taken officially at the next management committee meeting on January 3," Jean-Claude Massias, the French federation national director of coaching, said. Françoise Durr will, however, also keep her title as captain. "I hope to be able to prove as good at leading women as he has proved at leading the men," Julie Halard, a member of the team, said.

Doyle motion wins day

SNOOKER: The World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA) annual general meeting was yesterday adjourned until the new year after a motion by Ian Doyle, a leading critic of the association, that it had been incorrectly convened was carried by 15 votes to nine at the Marriott Hotel in Bristol (Phil Yates writes). He claimed the WPBSA had wrongly nominated the number of directors seeking re-election after the late resignation of John Spencer. Geoff Foulds, chairman, said of the power struggle: "There has been a scandalous campaign against the association."

England slip up

BASKETBALL: England slipped to their seventh defeat in eight group games in the European championship semi-final round when they were beaten 85-67 by Germany in Leipzig on Wednesday night. Ahead of out of contention for a place in the finals next summer, England connected with 41 per cent of their shots compared to Germany's 56 per cent. Dunkley top-scored for England with 14 points, with Bucknall and Huggins getting 13 apiece, but it was not enough to beat the Germans, for whom Rodi led the scoring with 19 points.

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BRITISH MUSEUM

Club chairmen agree to league changes

By Russell Kempson

AN EXPECTED challenge to the restructuring of the Football League, from disenchanted clubs in the second and third divisions of the Nationwide League, fizzled out yesterday. The Football League's proposals, which include dismantling the six-strong board of directors and replacing it with an independently chaired nine-man body, were eventually given overwhelming support at an extraordinary general meeting in London.

Representatives of 69 of the 72 Nationwide League clubs voted the moves through, despite fears from many of the smaller clubs that they would be relinquishing too much power to their larger first division counterparts.

Gordon McKeag, 69, the league president and chairman of the present board, who will lose his chairmanship and will also stand down as president at the end of the season, said: "Change is inevitable. In many areas, it is not only desirable but necessary. Additional money in the game brings benefits, but it also brings dangers and problems. What might happen to a sport that has become solely dependent on outside sources if the money dries up?

and determining how it is spent. There are signs, at the moment, that that balance is not being maintained. At the same time, we must preserve the essential values. After all, it is a sport."

David Sheepshanks, the Ipswich Town chairman and a prime mover of the proposals, is believed to have been accepted as one of three first division representatives on the newly-constructed board. He will join Ron Noades, of Crystal Palace, and Ian Stott, of Oldham Athletic. Nominations for the second and third division representatives close on Monday, with the result of the postal ballot due before January 9.

Iain Sproat, the Sports Minister, has urged the FA Premier League and Littlewoods, the pools company, to provide financial assistance for the Football Trust, which is mainly responsible for funding the upgrading of grounds in the wake of the 1989 Hillsborough disaster.

Since the introduction of the National Lottery two years ago, the Trust's annual income has slipped from a reported £37 million to £15 million. It is now concerned that it will be unable to fund some ground

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Stockport see future in the Premiership

By Our Sports Staff

VICTORY over West Ham United on Wednesday night may have earned Stockport County a place in the Coca-Cola Cup quarter-finals, but David Jones, the Stockport manager, was not about to change his priorities after his Nationwide League second division team had enjoyed their moment of glory at Edgeley Park.

"It's a great feeling to have won, but I've always said that our immediate priority is to get out of the second division," Jones said after his team had achieved a memorable 2-1 success in their fourth-round replay, aided by a freakish own goal by Iain Dowie, the West Ham striker.

"We're very ambitious at this club and the next step after that would be the Premiership. That's what we're aiming for."

Southampton earned a quarter-final trip to Stockport with a 3-2 defeat of Oxford United in Wednesday's other fourth-round replay, despite the absence of Matthew Le Tissier with a thigh injury, while Manchester United did their championship chances little good with a 1-1 draw at Sheffield Wednesday.

Dowie set on lightening the load at Harrow

Non-League Football by Walter Gammie

SPECTATORS filing into the Earlsmead ground of Harrow Borough pass a forlorn, fallen floodlight pylon in the car park that is a fitting symbol of the Icis League club's plight in the lower reaches of the premier division.

"We had four 80ft pylons with 12 lamps on each that were erected about 25 years ago," Peter Rogers, the club's football director, said. "One of the directors was walking his dog first thing in the morning and noticed a gap in one corner. We were lucky. The pylon fell when there was nobody about and there weren't any cars in the car park. It could have fallen on the pitch, the clubhouse or gardens on the side of the ground."

Adjusting the other pylons has enabled Harrow to carry on playing, but a structural engineer has now told the club that it must replace all the pylons. Even with insurance from the fallen pylon — a victim of gales — and safety grants, the club may face a worrying shortfall.

To get the club out of the shadows on the field, Harrow have turned to Bob Dowie, the brother of Iain, the West Ham United striker. Dowie replaced Harry Manoe, a Harrow striker in his playing days, who had

We finished eighth last year and he hadn't really changed the side. He felt the players weren't responding to him. He runs a big double-glazing firm and was very busy with his work, so he felt it was time to step away. He brought me to the club as coach last year and encouraged me to take the job."

The new manager is not short of things to do either. He combines working at Heathrow as an engineer for General Electric on British Airways' new Boeing 777 with acting as the FA head coach for Hertfordshire.

Dowie lifted the team off the foot of the table on Saturday with a 1-0 win over Chertsey Town, having brought in Ian Rutherford, a striker, from Berkhamsted, and Justin Merritt, a full back, from Brackley. "I don't want anybody to feel comfortable," he said. "If players have a bad game, I want them to know that there are people itching to get their place in the team."

Among the players he wants to make way is a 35-year-old centre half called Dowie. "I'm too close to it," he said. "I've always found it difficult to keep my mouth shut. Now I'm manager, it'll be even harder." With due timeliness, however, he had

Rig failure likely to put Tibbs at rear of fleet

SPORTS 11

Guilty...

ICE HOCKEY

Britain hope for brighter future

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

SHANNON HOPE was prepared to accept yesterday that qualification for the Olympic Games is now unlikely, after the 3-5 draw with Switzerland on Wednesday night...

"We are all disappointed that it looks unlikely we'll qualify for the Olympics, but the national team programme has come on a lot over the last few months," Hope said.

Hope believes Britain can win their world championship pool B competition in Poland in April.

Britain had a brief flirtation with pool A in 1994, but took some heavy beatings before finishing last.

"Our preparation before has been to tell the players to get out of the bar at Wembley because you're off to the world championships," Toemen said.

But beware: using football club wallpaper is all very well, but how does one cope afterwards in that lonely red-and-yellow house, deserted by family and unvisited by friends?

Table with 2 columns: Country and P W O L F A Pts. Lists statistics for Great Britain, Switzerland, Denmark, Slovenia, and Holland.

Memorabilia fails the taste test

LYNNE TRUSS



Kicking and Screaming

I had never used Manchester United gift-wrap until this year. But it's all right, actually. I'm not whingeing. The football thing was bound to affect my nearest and dearest in the long run...

But the best stuff in the Old Trafford Megastore doesn't look so good when you get it home. It crumbles in the light of day.

Commerce is naked and pretty damned ugly at Old Trafford. Commerce is naked and pretty damned ugly at Old Trafford. Commerce is naked and pretty damned ugly at Old Trafford.

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Trick photography helps your correspondent to come face to face with a hero at the Old Trafford Megastore

The sentiment is potentially universal. Not many people converged on Old Trafford the afternoon I visited the megastore.

Yet punters were few, and at one point the only other customer was a local reporter, eagerly canvassing my boyfriend's opinion about the scandal of yet another Manchester United strip to be introduced after Christmas.

Meanwhile, I toured the place, notebook in hand, fighting a strange feeling of shrinking in size. You see, the twin emporia at Old Trafford (the megastore only a bit bigger than the non-mega one) stand in the shadow of the grey stadium and the cold, towering concrete is not only intimidating, it also keeps reminding you that this big, impersonal club (turning its wealthy back against you)

thrives on exploiting little sucker-ish people with bad money-sense, motif-fixations and awful taste in lampshades.

This sensation of suckerdom is not encouraging, obviously. I kept wanting to say: "Eric

with religion: we ask for bread; they give us stones. We want to commune with our heroes, and we end up with a signed print in a "gift-effect" frame, costing £80.

Fiddle-headed as ever, I chose Cantona and Schmeichel and then posed pluckily against a blank wall, trying to look weak-kneed and overcome by the honour of the occasion.



No, the best value at Old Trafford is the £5 trick Polaroid with the star of your choice, although when I scanned the pictures for the lovely Beckham I couldn't find him.

"Which is Beckham?" I asked the man with the camera. "There," he said. "No, that's not him," I said with confidence. "It is," he said. "He just hasn't been air-brushed, so he doesn't look handsome."

But my pictures are an excellent memento of Old Trafford suckerdom, and also a rather good symbol for the whole business of football merchandise — being cheap yet a rip-off at the same time.

"Really they ought to get a design consultant," the boyfriend said at the end of our visit. It was one of those lovely understatements that you treasure for the rest of your life.

'Commerce is naked and pretty damned ugly at Old Trafford'

Cantona doesn't shop in here, does he? When was the last time Alex Ferguson popped in for a box of crackers?

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GOLF: MASTERS CHAMPION TO FUND NEW TOURNAMENT FOR JUNIORS

Faldo invests in stars of the future

By JOHN HOPKINS GOLF CORRESPONDENT

NICK FALDO has always paid tribute to the help and encouragement he had as a junior golfer in Hertfordshire in the 1970s.

The 60 players with the lowest handicaps will play three 18-hole strokeplay events in five regions — southern England, the Midlands and Wales, the north of England, Scotland and Ireland — and the 16 players with the lowest gross scores will receive points which give them a regional ranking.

The three highest-ranked players from each region will compete in a 36-hole final at the Forest of Arden golf club on August 27 and 28 at which Faldo will be present and will give advice.

"Sometimes I wish I could turn the clock back and set out on a professional career with all the knowledge I have accumulated in 20 years on tour," Faldo said.

"I had had the opportunity that these youngsters will now have. I would have been really, really good. I have learnt so much about diet, physical fitness and sports psychology, but I had to learn it as I went along.

"When I first spoke to a careers officer and said that I wanted to be a golfer, he just said 'no, no, no' — only one in 10,000 make it. I said I was that one. I would like to break down that attitude."

Diana Critchley, the mother of Bruce Critchley, the television golf commentator, has died, at the age of 85. Critchley, née Fishwick, was British women's amateur champion in 1930, played in the 1932 and 1934 Curtis Cup matches against the United States and was twice English champion. She was non-playing captain of the 1950 Curtis Cup team.

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Table with columns: Country, Depth (cm), Conditions, Runs to resort, Weather (Spr), Last snow. Lists weather forecasts for Andorra, Austria, France, Italy, and Switzerland.

MODELS' WATTS

(b) A grandfather's grandfather, ie. a great-great-grandfather. From tris the Latin for three + avia the Englishing of avialis the diminutive of avia the Latin for a grandfather. Etymology: 1768; "If it mounts one degree higher, to the tresavie or grandfather's grandfather, the writ is called a writ of consanguineo."

(a) Of a poor, worthless or vile quality or condition, of little account. Hence, wreath of persons or actions. From the Old English. "It were ill, / If every unwraste had his will."

(c) Showing the back, having the back turned towards the spectator. Said of an animal borne as a charge in heraldry, but rare even there, because turning the back is the antithesis of chivalry. From the Latin tergum a back, formed by analogy with rampant and passant. "Tergant, of a tortoise, having the back turned towards the spectator." With a tortoise, how can you tell?

(e) The Anatta tree or Roscoe, from the Brazilian Tupi word, a tropical red tree. 1613: "The women are well faced, painted red with urees, which grows in a cod like a beane."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE: 1... Rxb3 mates quickly, eg. 2. cxb3 Nxb3 mate or 2. Nc3 Rb1 mate.

All together now, boys

Chance in a Lifetime. Radio 4 (FM), 10.00am.

It was as if someone had waved a magic wand. The trick, devised by the old Labour-run London County Council, was an experiment in left-wing social engineering before the term was even thought of.

Ninety Not Out. Radio 4, 8.50pm. Actually, the cinematographer Freddie Young is 94, though the extra four years have not diminished his capacity to recall, and comment on, the film-makers with whom he has worked since he was 15.

RADIO 1

7.00am Chris Evans 9.30 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa (Anon) 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier, includes at 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat and at 6.30 The

RADIO 2

8.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake up to Wogan 9.30 Karl Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Throver 3.00 Ed

RADIO 3 LIVE

5.00pm Morning Reports, incl at 5.45 Wake Up to Money 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 12.00 Micky with Mark

TALK RADIO

5.00pm Chris Ashley and Sandy West 7.00 Paul Ross 9.00 Scott Chisham

RADIO 3

8.00am On Air, includes Mozart (Symphony No 40 in G minor, K551) and Beethoven (Cello

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping (LW) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.28 Prayer for the Day

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. News on the hour 5.30am Europe Today 6.30 Europe Today 7.15 Of the Shelf 7.30 Heritage

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 6.00 Mike Reed 9.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Susannah

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ II Juno's Breakfast Experience 10.00 Graham Dene

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Table with columns: FIRST TELECOM, BT NMS RATES, USA, Canada, France, Germany, Australia, Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, and other international destinations.

FIRST TELECOM

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Guilty, yes, but she is not solely to blame

Elizabeth Hurley is not the first actress to make a very bad film; nor, I suppose, will she be the last. But where she is undoubtedly alone is in having the blame for a disaster heaped entirely upon her shapely shoulders. This is most unfair. All sorts of people were very bad in *Sansone* and *Delilah* (Sky 1).

Dennis Hopper, Diana Rigg and Daniel Massey are just three who will not sleep easily in their beds. Nicolas Roeg, who directed it, may never sleep again. Only Michael Gambon can shrug and walk away with his head high. His task was made easier by playing the very reasonable King of the Philistines, a man who believed tongues should be cut out only in emergencies, and by the fact that most of his scenes were played opposite his ridiculously evil son, Prince Sidqa. Next to the unfortunate Ben Becker, Gambon was bound to look good.

Delilah (a heavily kohled Hurley) had relatively little to do in this tiresomely protracted version of the story. Some rather demure sex scenes in a tent, a bit of flirting with General Tariq (Hopper) and she was off to count her several thousand pieces of silver. "A girl's got to look to her future," she explained, pausing only to kiss Tariq and make a mental note to cut out the tongue of whoever bestowed that line upon her.

Much criticism has been heaped upon Hurley's accent, but her Home Counties was just one of unpleasing variations on the English language that reflected the fact that this was a television movie produced in Italy and Germany and backed additionally in France, Britain and America. So Sansone's accent was continental American, his mother's theatrical English, while most of his pre-Delilah girlfriends spoke Italian-English. No wonder he fell for the first girl he met with neatly clipped vowels.

Delilah, of course, did not enjoy her riches for long, eventually being squashed by a very large column. Given her lifestyle, that seemed appropriate. Sansone also died in the temple, a demise that brought to a close a performance from Eric Tully that seemed to have lasted an eternity. At four hours, it very nearly had. No wonder the American critics were in such vicious mood by the end of it. Me? I did my Christmas cards. Hardly cross at all by the close.

Given the mauling Crocodile Shoes (BBC1) has received in recent weeks, Jimmy Nail and Hurley could soon be setting up a support group for serially abused actors - or at least they could once they get over the language barrier. But unlike Hurley, Nail has nowhere to hide, nobody else to blame. As the credits lost no time in reminding us, he wrote and created it, he stars in it, executive produced it and wrote the songs. As far as I'm concerned, that makes it his fault.

Anyway, last night's episode was the last one, so things were looking up. "Let's hear it for the country boy," I sang, cheerily looking forward to discovering what it had all been about for the preceding five weeks. But as the great Kylie Minogue once said: "I should be so lucky... lucky, lucky, lucky."

It seems that the reason for everything - his manager's death, his financial ruin, et cetera - was something called "a cut-out scam". Not another cut-out scam, I groaned. No, that's not true. A what, I said? But Nail, alias Jez Sheppard, alias Tyneside's answer to Simple Simon, was ahead of me. "So what's a cut-out scam?" he asked his new and so far still alive manager. He explained... slowly and at some length. I still didn't understand it, but it seemed to involve deleted records. I wonder whose?

Then it all got very strange. The bad policeman became a goodie, the sleazy journalist became the caped crusader and something odd happened to the normal patterns of day and night. As the action shuttled between London and Newcastle at a speed that defied the AI, it could be night-time

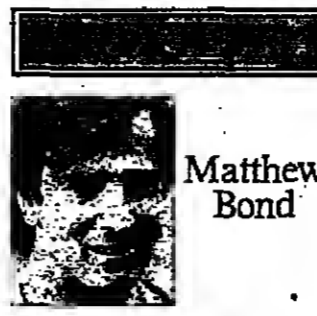
on the Tyne and broad daylight on the Thames. As Wendy (Liz Carrington) was held hostage by the mad Connors, she seemed to pass through three time zones. Not that it mattered, the gallant Jez would have rescued her in any of them and driven the wicked Warren Bowles (Robert Morgan) into a fuel tanker. Bowles and the cut-out scam were history and so, I hope, is Crocodile Shoes.

Andy Goldsworthy's work is destined to be history for a very long time, given that his chosen medium at the moment is the dry stone wall. His latest project, we learnt in *The Works: The Stone Diaries* (BBC2) is to renovate 100 stone-walled sheepfolds in Cumbria, restoring them not to their former functional glory but placing a large boulder in the middle. "It looks like we're just putting boulders in a field, but it's not like that at all," explained the

slightly defensive Goldsworthy. "It's the way they sit, the choice of stone..."

Tim Neill's film was absorbing and enjoyably provocative, playfully contrasting the artist's enthusiasm with the healthy scepticism of local farmers. One minute I could see exactly what Goldsworthy was getting at: "The idea of time is so important to me." The restored sheep-fold could stand for another 50-100 years and even when the walls have crumbled again, the boulders will remain. "The line will always be there."

Just as he convinced me, I suddenly realised he wasn't even doing the walling himself - with the help of an Arts Council grant he'd got the professionals in. This seemed a bit like Van Gogh saying to an assistant, "Here's a nice colour, just dab it in there for me please." Still, if sheep ever discover pinctos, those boulders will make lovely tables.



Matthew Bond

- BBC1**
- 6.00am BUSINESS BREAKFAST (30056) 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (30407) 9.00 Breakfast News Extra (1824862)
 - 9.20 STYLE CHALLENGE (4507681)
 - 9.50 KILROY (8833730)
 - 10.30 CAN'T COOK, WON'T COOK with Kevin Woodford (55582)
 - 11.00 NEWS (T) and weather (3033314)
 - 11.05 THE REALLY USEFUL SHOW Consumer advice (5034827)
 - 11.45 SMILLIE'S PEOPLE (8961038)
 - 12.00 NEWS (T) and weather (1629371)
 - 12.05pm ALIAS SMITH AND JONES (T) (3070575)
 - 12.50 THE WEATHER SHOW (3044372)
 - 1.00 NEWS (T) and weather (303594)
 - 1.30 REGIONAL NEWS (3942485)
 - 1.40 NEIGHBOURS (T) (2948414)
 - 2.00 CALL MY BLUFF (3469)
 - 2.30 PETER SEABROOK'S GARDENING WEEK Last in series (848)
 - 3.00 INCOGNITO (5204)
 - 3.30 BRUM (T) (7652988) 3.40 Formulae the Reindeer (1968730) 3.50 The Family Ness (T) (8883407) 3.55 Dear Mr Barker Last in series (T) (4402466) 4.10 The Real Adventures of Jonny Quest (T) (1572136) 4.35 Grand Prix (7360487) 5.00 Newsround (T) (8193104) 5.10 Blue Peter (T) (823117)
 - 5.35 NEIGHBOURS (T) (T) (86382)
 - 6.00 NEWS (T) and weather (575)
 - 6.30 REGIONAL NEWS (827)
 - 7.00 THIS IS YOUR LIFE (T) (7285)
 - 7.30 TOP OF THE POPS (T) (339)
 - 8.00 DAD'S ARMY Classic comedy with the Wellington-on-Sea Home Guard. Starring Arthur Lowe, John Le Mesurier and Cue Dudd (T) (8933)
 - 8.30 2POINT4 CHILDREN The second of a two-part story. Ben has disappeared and Pops returns from the hospital with more than she bargained for (T) (5440)
 - 9.00 NEWS (T), regional news and weather (3440)
 - 9.30 HETTY WAINTROPP INVESTIGATES The police ask Hetty to investigate a spiritualist for them, but she is not prepared for what she discovers (T) (480049)
 - 10.25 PARKY AT CHRISTMAS Michael Parkinson relives some of the magical moments from his 11 years as a chat show host, before an invited audience (T) (338372) WALES: his Williams - Song Book 10.55 Parky at Christmas 11.45 FILM: Carry on Loving 11.00am FILM: Carry on Abroad 2.40 News
 - 11.15 FILM: Carry on Loving (1970) starring Sid James, Kenneth Williams, Charles Hawtrey and Joan Sims. Romantic comedy with the Carry On gang running a bogus marriage bureau. Directed by Gerald Thomas (T) (34592)
 - 12.40 am FILM: Carry on Abroad (1972) starring Sid James, Kenneth Williams, Charles Hawtrey, Joan Sims and Barbara Windsor. The Carry On team cause havoc when they arrive in a Spanish resort on a package holiday. Directed by Gerald Thomas (329177)
 - 2.10 WEATHER (7149173)

- BBC2**
- 6.00am OPEN UNIVERSITY: The Statisticians Strike Back (7408848) 6.25 The World's Best Athlete (7418811) 6.50 Refining The View (8722542) 7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (2741733) The Legend of Prince Valiant (875914) 7.50 Smart (5673730) 8.15 Charlie Chalk (7792223) 8.35 Lassie (8716136) 9.00 Brainwaves (988914) 9.05 Canal Road (988117) 10.00 Playdays (2177881) 10.25 The Chameleons (8611559) 11.15 The Phil Squires Show (4828454) 11.40 Flash Gordon's Trip to Mars (813137) 12.00 Operation Survival (98846)
 - 12.30pm Working Lunch (29117) 1.00 Charlie Chalk (9407778)
 - 1.15 FILM: Blanche Fury (1948, b/w) Gothic melodrama starring Stewart Granger and Valerie Hobson. Directed by Marc Allégret (T) (769117)
 - 2.45 MR ZOGGY'S CLOVES (3110681) 3.00 News and weather (7870914) 3.05 The Oprah Winfrey Show (1156117) 3.45 Performance (1965543) 3.55 News and weather (8673020) 4.00 Today's Day (440) 4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (852) 5.00 Swimming (8391) 5.30 Going, Going, Gone (204)
 - 6.00 THE MUNSTERS (b/w) (T) (96581)
 - 6.25 UFO (T) (308198)
 - 7.15 ELECTRIC CIRCUS (500198)
 - 7.30 TOP GEAR MOTORSPORT Highlights from the motoring calendar (T) (681)
 - 8.00 GUCK, GLUCK, GLUCK Malcolm travels to Spain, New Zealand and Germany to discover how wine gets its flavour (T) (4575)
 - 8.30 STEFAN BUZACKI'S GARDENING IN BRITAIN In the final programme of the series Stefan visits the magnificent Capability Brown garden in Slowe, Buckinghamshire, where he is joined by a team of experts to offer seasonal advice on protecting plants from the ravages of winter (T) (6310)
 - 9.00 SHOOTING STARS Celebrity quiz with guests Frank Bough, Clare Grogan, John Thomson and Sarah White (T) (4310)
 - 9.30 RED DWARF VI Last in series (T) (39831)
 - 10.00 HAVE I GOT NEWS FOR YOU Highlights from the 1996 series (9575)
 - 10.30 NEWSNIGHT (T) (924961)
 - 11.15 LOOKING FOR TAT (774020)
 - 11.25 THE A FORCE The best in black entertainment (1519489)
 - 1.30am FILM: Count of the Old Town (1935, b/w) Comedy thriller starring Ingrid Bergman. Gangsters and bootleggers play hide and seek with the police in Stockholm's Old Town. Directed by Edwin Arlderson and Sigvald Wallen. In Swedish with English subtitles. (9471824) Ends at 2.45

Gluck, Gluck, Gluck
BBC2, 8.00pm

Not for the first time Malcolm Gluck reports from New Zealand. The country may be better known for sheep farmers and rugby players than for wine, but as regular viewers of the series will know, Gluck is a champion of the unfashionable. And the New Zealand Sauvignon blanc is much to Gluck's taste. He is also in Spain, applying one of his favourite words (and one surely of his inventors), "gluggable", to a red Merlot. This episode is directed by Gluck as "unimpassioned, silly and snuffy". Gluck may be an iconoclast, but like most wine experts he never uses one adjective when four will do the job better. Connoisseurs of extravagant winespeak may also relish Gluck's description of the Merlot fruit as being "as textured as fine soft cotton". After all this build-up, Es a bottle seems a snip.

Stefan Buzacki's Gardening Britain BBC2, 8.30pm

The dapper horticulturalist rounds off an agreeable series by taking his roadshow to Slowe in Buckinghamshire, where the Capability Brown garden with its abundance of temples and monuments offers a striking backdrop for the plant surgery. Assisting the enlightening Buzacki in the expert diagnosis of dodgy specimens are nurserywoman Susan Reddin, this newspaper's gardening correspondent, Stephen Anderson, and William Van Hage. There is another job for Van Hage as he takes us round the grounds of Chenies Manor, which has hosted a garden since the 17th century. We also hear from Wendy Witzman, a former dancer and theatre director. Born in Britain, she returned from America 11 years ago and has worked wonders with the garden at her Tudor inn.

Shooting Stars BBC2, 9.00pm

The big news this week is that Vic Reeves appears without his glasses. Can it be that having done his best to lose them, Eric Morecambe, in looks, voice and mannerisms, he is now trying to distance himself from the great comic? But if Reeves has discarded his specs the show still, curiously enough, offers a link with Morecambe and Wise. He is none other than Frank Bough, who proved his staying power by turning it up as shamelessly for Vic and Bob Mortimer as he once did for Eric and Ernie. But if Frank is thinking of a new career as an impressionist, his dreadful Windsor Davies is likely to stop it dead in its tracks. Sarah White from *Brookside* and comedian presenter, Clare Grogan, and comedy actor John Thomson, complete the guest panelists.

Doctor Finlay: Snowblind BBC1, 9.00pm

This seasonal special is virtually a four-hander as snow cuts off Arden House and Janet and Dr Napier are forced to stay the night with Finlay and Cameron. It proves to be a less than festive Hogmanay. Cameron (Ian Bannen) has too much to drink, insults Janet (Annette Crosbie) and has a heart attack. He has also been egging on Finlay (David Rintoul) finally to pop the question to Jennifer Napier (Jessica Turner) and end Arden House's tradition of bachelor doctors. Carrey Harrison's script will probably mean little to newcomers but friends of the show will enjoy the intense and often testy interplay between the familiar characters. To add to the pleasure, the show is superbly acted. The material may lean towards the sentimental but the scenes between Bannen and Crosbie in particular have an authentic depth and poignancy. Peter Waymark

HITV

- 6.00am GMTV (7653049)
- 9.25 CAPTAIN SIMIAN AND THE SPACE MONKEYS (4591202)
- 9.50 STEP BY STEP (2559117)
- 10.20 NEWS (3447730)
- 10.25 REGIONAL NEWS (3446001)
- 10.30 FILM: The Trouble with Harry (1955) Comedy thriller starring Edmund Gwenn, John Forsythe and Shirley Maclaine. An old sea captain's friends become involved when he finds a corpse. Directed by Alfred Hitchcock (9040469)
- 12.20pm REGIONAL NEWS (5523355)
- 12.30 NEWS (T) and weather (8482934)
- 12.55 DR QUINN, MEDICINE WOMAN (T) (9228843) 2.00 Home and Away (T) (63167448) 2.25 Murder, She Wrote (T) (60917925) 2.55 Yan Can Cook - The Best of China (6257154)
- 3.20 NEWS (T) (7887204)
- 3.25 REGIONAL NEWS (7888675)
- 3.30 JAYS WORLD (8357317) 3.40 Zzzzap! Christmas Annals (542961) 3.55 CIV Awards 1996 (8493556)
- 5.10 A COUNTRY PRACTICE (7043117)
- 5.40 NEWS (T) and weather (492955)
- 6.00 HOME AND AWAY (T) (969407)
- 6.25 HTV NEWS (T) (110202)
- 6.50 CATCHPHRASE (T) (5681)
- 7.30 CORONATION STREET Also sets a trap (T) (407)
- 8.00 THE BILL: A Gun to the Head A judge decides to reveal the name of Beech and Day's informant (T) (1001)
- 8.30 FAITH IN THE FUTURE Faith and Hannah escort a coach load of aged art students across the Channel (T) (8378)

Dr Finlay and Dr Napier (9.00pm)

9.00 DOCTOR FINLAY: Snowblind Scores are set off, on the night before Hogmanay in a transfer to Surgery on cable, and from 8pm-8am every day on cable

10.00 NEWS (T) and weather (86001)

10.30 REGIONAL NEWS (245923)

10.40 FILM: The Outcast Film (1974) with Jon Chaffin and Maximilian Schell. Classic adaptation of the Frederick Forsyth novel about a young reporter who is determined to track down an infamous Nazi war criminal mentioned in the posthumously published diaries of a death camp survivor. Directed by Ronald F. Maxwell (T) (2448556)

1.00 FUNNY BUSINESS (30088)

1.30 FILM: THE BLUE GIANT starring Dyan McDermott, Jessica Harper and James Russo in a film noir spot. Directed by John Lafia (845857)

3.05 BUSHED ON THE BOX (T) (82404063)

3.35 MTV EUROPE MUSIC AWARDS 1996 (T) (3015698)

5.00 INTERNATIONAL TOURING CARS (T) (96824)

5.30 NEWS (81605)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:

- 12.55pm HOME AND AWAY (9484285)
- 1.25 RELATIVE VALUES (30015846)
- 1.55 A COUNTRY PRACTICE (20498117)
- 2.20-2.40 MURDER, SHE WROTE (8261285)
- 5.10-5.40 SHORTLAND STREET (7043117)
- 6.25-7.00 CENTRAL NEWS AND WEATHER (110020)
- 1.00am COMEDY CENTRAL (13676)
- 2.00 CYBER CAFE (41247)
- 2.30 Film: INDEPENDENCE (906537)
- 4.10 HELTER SKELTER (3083266)
- 5.00 JOYFINDER (8344529)
- 5.20 ASIAN EYE (171292)

As HTV West except:

- 12.25pm-12.30 A CHRISTMAS TALE (9392264)
- 12.55 CORONATION STREET (9464285)
- 1.25 MASTERCRAFT (30015846)
- 1.55 HOME AND AWAY (21021198)
- 2.25 HIGH ROAD (80917825)
- 2.55-3.20 GARDENERS' DIARY (6267154)
- 5.10-5.40 HOME AND AWAY (7043117)
- 6.00-7.00 WESTCOUNTRY LIVE (21662)

As HTV West except:

- 12.55 DINOSAURS (9484285)
- 1.25 HOME AND AWAY (30015846)
- 1.55 A COUNTRY PRACTICE (20498117)
- 2.20-2.40 MURDER, SHE WROTE (8261285)
- 5.10 HOME AND AWAY (7043117)
- 5.37 THREE MINUTES - YOUR STORY (844440)
- 6.00-7.00 MENDIAN TONIGHT (21662)
- 5.00am FREESCREEN (96824)

As HTV West except:

- 12.55pm CROSS WITS (9484285)
- 1.25 HOME AND AWAY (30015846)
- 1.55 MURDER, SHE WROTE (8138846)
- 2.55-3.20 HOPE AND GLORIA (8267154)
- 5.10-5.40 SHORTLAND STREET (7043117)
- 6.25 ANGLIA WEATHER (112662)
- 6.30-7.00 ANGLIA NEWS (223)

CHANNEL 4

- 6.35am THE WONDERFUL WIZARD OF OZ (8798846)
- 7.00 THE BIG BREAKFAST (23117)
- 9.00 FILM: At The Earth's Core (1976) Adventure starring Doug McClure and Peter Cushing as Victorian explorers. Directed by Kevin Connor (51069556)
- 10.40 WRITING FANES (9722049) 11.05 The Pink Panther (7505049) 11.30 Dog City (5406533) 11.50 The Adventures of Tintin (8301169) 12.15pm Super Mario Bros (9195224) 12.30 A Box Full of Stories (3038198) 12.50 The Nightmare Years (30468310) 1.00 Sesame Street (19240) 2.00 The Living Sea (7842830)
- 2.25 FILM: The Christmas Stallion (1992) starring Stan MacLean as a 18-year-old orphan whose future is threatened when her grandfather dies. Directed by Peter Edwards (T) (693310)
- 4.15 COUNTDOWN (T) (186469)
- 5.00 TV DINNERS (T) (5869)
- 5.30 OPEN THE GARDEN WALL (T) (872)
- 6.00 TFI FRIDAY The bands include Sleeper and Black Grape (29204)
- 7.00 CHANNEL 4 NEWS (245575)
- 7.55 THE SLOT (56219)
- 8.00 LONELY PLANET Justine Shapiro travels to Turkey, where she sees the ruins at Ephesus and attends a traditional wedding (T) (9643)
- 8.30 BROOKSIDE Has Ron finally pushed Jimmy too far? Nat and Georgia lace up to the tented consequences of their love (T) (8778)
- 9.00 CAROLINE IN THE CITY: Caroline and the 28th Walleys Caroline returns home to her delighted parents when the town houses her by naming a park after her (T) (6778)
- 11.25 TFI FRIDAY (T) (82537)
- 12.30am THE ADAM AND JOE SHOW Tonight the duo compare American and British popular culture (75150)
- 1.00 FILM: The Satanic Rites of Dracula (1973) starring Christopher Lee as the blood-loving fiend who plans to take over the world by introducing a new strain of bubonic plague to London. Directed by Donald Pfaff (820575)
- 2.40 FILM: The Devilship Pirates (1964) In 1588 a Spanish pirate persuades Cornish villagers that Drake has been defeated (7294599) Ends at 4.10

Annabeth Gish stars (9.30pm)

9.30 FILM: Mystic Pizza (1988) Comedy starring Annabeth Gish, David Permut, (4888) and Lori Loughlin. Sisters Daisy, Arjuna and their friend Joy work as pizza parlour waitresses in the resort town of Mystic, Connecticut. As the season draws to a close, a dramatic turn of events at Joy's wedding leads to an autumn of romantic adventures for all three friends. Directed by Donald Pfaff (820575)

For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday

SKY 1

- 7.00am Love Connection (4147259) 7.20 Press Your Luck (4152227) 7.40 Jeopardy! (937943) 8.10 News (872440) 8.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (72620) 8.50 M*A*S*H (8221) 9.00 M*A*S*H (8221) 9.15 M*A*S*H (8221) 9.30 M*A*S*H (8221) 9.45 M*A*S*H (8221) 10.00 M*A*S*H (8221) 10.15 M*A*S*H (8221) 10.30 M*A*S*H (8221) 10.45 M*A*S*H (8221) 11.00 M*A*S*H (8221) 11.15 M*A*S*H (8221) 11.30 M*A*S*H (8221) 11.45 M*A*S*H (8221) 12.00 M*A*S*H (8221) 12.15 M*A*S*H (8221) 12.30 M*A*S*H (8221) 12.45 M*A*S*H (8221) 1.00 M*A*S*H (8221) 1.15 M*A*S*H (8221) 1.30 M*A*S*H (8221) 1.45 M*A*S*H (8221) 2.00 M*A*S*H (8221) 2.15 M*A*S*H (8221) 2.30 M*A*S*H (8221) 2.45 M*A*S*H (8221) 3.00 M*A*S*H (8221) 3.15 M*A*S*H (8221) 3.30 M*A*S*H (8221) 3.45 M*A*S*H (8221) 4.00 M*A*S*H (8221) 4.15 M*A*S*H (8221) 4.30 M*A*S*H (8221) 4.45 M*A*S*H (8221) 5.00 M*A*S*H (8221) 5.15 M*A*S*H (8221) 5.30 M*A*S*H (8221) 5.45 M*A*S*H (8221) 6.00 M*A*S*H (8221) 6.15 M*A*S*H (8221) 6.30 M*A*S*H (8221) 6.45 M*A*S*H (8221) 7.00 M*A*S*H (8221) 7.15 M*A*S*H (8221) 7.30 M*A*S*H (8221) 7.45 M*A*S*H (8221) 8.00 M*A*S*H (8221) 8.15 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SPORTS ILLUSTRATED

POOL 34

Steve Davis dropped in deep end by new challenge

SPORT

EQUESTRIANISM 37

Festive thrills aplenty at Olympia show

FRIDAY DECEMBER 20 1996

Forest forced to seek Psycho therapy

By ROB HUGHES FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

IT IS becoming as traditional as mistletoe: a top football manager kissing his job goodbye in the week before Christmas...

offer. But he likes a challenge, and when, almost certainly, he takes up the post of acting manager this morning...

one of this season, someone of a different approach might stir the players. Where, meanwhile, does Clark go? He needs a job...

on leaving for Liverpool. He had lost Lars Bohinen, who also defected to Blackburn Rovers...

as a laboratory assistant, knew how to master the chemistry of a very special club challenge. The ghost, and some say the skeletons, of Clough did not deter him...

from his days as an Amateur Cup winner with Crook Town to his years as a Forest player when, under Clough, he won the championship and the European Cup...



Clark resigned

Atherton's fall caps worrying day for England

FROM SIMON WILDE IN BULAWAYO

BULAWAYO (second day of five): England, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 328 runs behind Zimbabwe...

reasonable to assume that Zimbabwe's main hope of keeping England's batsmen in check is through their one slow bowler, Paul Strang...

proving symbolic with regard to the significance of Atherton's departure. The hiatus created by the rain was welcome in one way...



The England captain, left, trudges towards the pavilion as the jubilant Paul Strang celebrates the success of his appeal for leg-before.

CROSSWORD puzzle grid with clues and solutions.

spent getting through the rain, and was a thoroughly well-organised innings. He came in on Wednesday with his side 136 for three...

Flower is a cricketer down to his boot- straps. He has made runs regularly for his country, captained them and keeps wickets for them...

Mullally has been propelled by a pretty feeble breeze in this match, but that quite took what wind there was out of his sails.

England: First Innings Total (1 wk, 16.5 overs, 57min) 48. 1A J Stewart, G P Thomas, N Haseeb, J P Crawley, R O B Croft, O Gough, A O Mullaly, C E W Silverwood and P C R Tufnell (not out).

Zimbabwe: First Innings Total (1 wk, 16.5 overs, 57min) 29. 1A J Stewart, G P Thomas, N Haseeb, J P Crawley, R O B Croft, O Gough, A O Mullaly, C E W Silverwood and P C R Tufnell (not out).

Silence marks beginning of the end

Lucy Duncan, on board Concert, on her losing battle with the Southern Ocean. TWENTY-FOUR hours ago we were bouncing along on the crest of the waves in the Southern Ocean...

predicament. Not one person has been heard to moan or complain. Officers of support have poured in from all the other crews. However, our only immediate need was for more fuel, which was provided by Motorola in the late evening...

At the moment it is too early to speculate on why the rig failed - we were not sailing the boat hard. My initial thoughts, once the enormity of what had happened had struck, were that this was the end of the racing. We felt we were competitive and thoroughly enjoyed pitting ourselves against the other boats...

One of the best things to come out of the past 24 hours is the response of our crew and all the other crews to our predicament. Not one person has been heard to moan or complain. Officers of support have poured in from all the other crews...

DIAMONDS MAY BE FOREVER... ARTHRITIS NEEDN'T BE. There are many forms of arthritic and rheumatic disease which affect men, women and children in Britain today...

THE SUNDAY... AS team... Lima arena... proven win...

Latin American guerrillas' love of money vies with sense of social justice

FROM DAVID ADAMS
IN MIAMI

SEVERAL representatives of top Japanese firms — including car-makers Toyota and Mitsubishi, electrical goods manufacturers NEC and Matsushita, and the mining firm Mitsui — are among the hostages.

Japan, and Japanese corporations have an increasing reputation for rapidly caving in to extortion.

The guerrillas' main demand involves the release of several hundred of their comrades jailed in Peru and in neighbouring countries, including Bolivia and Uruguay. The guerrillas are also demanding payment of an unspecified amount through a "war tax".

When a senior executive of the Sanyo electronics giant was kidnapped in Mexico last August, the company quickly paid a \$2 million ransom to secure his release.

Analysts say the time when Latin American guerrillas fought for democracy and sought social justice is long gone, save perhaps for the Zapatista rebel army in south-

ern Mexico. "These days it's all about money," said Eduardo Gamarra, a Bolivian academic. "Most of the guerrilla groups operating in the region today have been corrupted by money and are little more than common criminals."

Peruvian experts agree that the Cuban and Libyan-trained Movimiento Revolucionario Tupac Amaru has a well-proven track record of financing its operation through extortion and kidnapping,

which it likes to call "war taxes". Last year the group kidnapped a leading Bolivian businessman who was released after a \$1 million ransom was paid. The guerrillas were later captured by police and are among those whose release is being sought by those occupying the Japanese Ambassador's residence in Lima.

"These people are technically very good at the mechanics of kidnapping," said Gustavo Gorriti,

a newspaper editor and expert on Peruvian armed groups. "They have made a lot of money with a number of high-profile and financially rewarding kidnappings."

But at the same time, Gorriti says, factions of the group have been less corrupted by money, retaining "a relatively high degree of political conviction".

Money may be part of their motivation, Gorriti said, but their political survival is also a result of

military repression by President Fujimori's Government and the military intelligence services.

Spurning guerrilla offers to negotiate an end to the struggle, the Government chose to try to wipe them out. "In some ways, these people didn't have much of a choice if they wanted to maintain any level of existence," Gorriti said. "Señor Fujimori is reaping what he has sown with the inadequacies of his counter-insurgency policy."

SAS team enters Lima arena as proven winners

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Special Air Service has taken on a high-risk mission in Lima, confronted by an enemy dedicated to its cause and prepared to die for it.

The Marxist Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement has a long history of violence and any plan to storm the Japanese Ambassador's residence to release the hostages could lead to a bloodbath.

The challenge for the small SAS team sent from the Hereford headquarters of the British Army's elite regiment is that expectations of their ability to resolve the siege will be high, even though their role in this incident is to be strictly advisory. They are there to add their experience to any American special forces team which is sent to Peru.

The SAS has acquired such legendary operational status that its expertise and experience have been called upon by foreign governments around the globe. Men from 22 SAS, the regular army regiment, have turned up in Somalia, Gambia, and even the United States to offer their help and advice.

One SAS man was believed to have been present at the doomed Waco siege in Texas in April 1993 which ended in disaster when armed American police stormed the fortress home of David Koresh and his followers. The SAS liaison man is understood to have advised against the action.



ence, except as a last resort. Not least is the number of hostages involved, their different nationalities and the likelihood that they are split into different areas of the residence.

If the terrorists begin shooting hostages, there may be no option but to send in the troops. However, until then, the emphasis is likely to be a "softly-softly" approach — relying on the quiet, even boring tones of the civilian negotiators.

The six SAS men sent to Lima come from the regiment's counter-revolutionary warfare wing, which includes a counter-terrorist team and a special unit prepared at 24 hours' notice to go to a British embassy anywhere in the world to advise or assist an ambassador in trouble. The

half dozen men are believed to consist of four instructors from the counter-revolutionary warfare wing, all senior non-commissioned officers, and two officers.

Although their role will be strictly advisory, past experience has shown that SAS "advisors" tend to get involved on the operational side. This was the case in Gambia and in Mogadishu, the Somali capital, where the SAS played a crucial part in bringing to an end a hijack in the former case and an armed insurrection in the latter.

In October 1977 four Palestinians hijacked a Lufthansa airliner and demanded the release of the jailed leaders of the Baader-Meinhof terrorist organisation. The airliner finally landed in Mogadishu. The pilot had been murdered and his body was thrown onto the runway.

The Germans asked for British help and two SAS men were sent as liaison personnel to join a German GSG9 special forces team. With no hope of a peaceful end to the hijack, the SAS men drew up a plan and joined the team in storming the aircraft. Three of the four hostages were killed and the passengers were freed.

The SAS's most public operation was the storming of the Iranian Embassy at Princes Gate in 1980. They used entry techniques which demonstrated the regiment's ability to act fast and aggressively. Explosive devices helped to disorientate the six terrorists — and the 20 hostages — and bring to an end a siege which had lasted for six days.



Two unidentified men watch from inside the Japanese Ambassador's residence, which was seized by gunmen

Moves to free jailed US rebel jeopardised

FROM QUENTIN LETTS
IN NEW YORK



THE siege is a blow to the hopes of a New York couple who have been campaigning all year for the release of their daughter from a Peruvian prison.

Mark and Rhoda Berenson, both teachers, last month visited Lori, 27, in a crude jail near the Andes. She was sentenced to life earlier this year for belonging to the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement.

The Tupac terrorists have named Lori Berenson as one of the prisoners they want released, among other demands. Before this week's developments, the Berensons were quietly optimistic that, with discreet

FAMILY

diplomatic assistance and pressure from human rights groups, they could win a reduction in her sentence and improve her jail conditions.

She was tried in one of Peru's controversial "blind" courts, where judges sometimes wear hoods to disguise their identity, and where there is no jury.

Now the couple fear the Peruvian authorities will be in no mood to go soft on a misguided American who got mixed up in another country's domestic strife. Nor are the Berensons helped by the international nature of the Lima siege. The Tupac Amaru name will now be linked around the

Emperor's birthday celebration cancelled

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS
IN TOKYO

JAPAN'S Imperial Palace announced yesterday that it will cancel its official celebrations of Emperor Akihito's sixty-third birthday because of the terrorist incident in Peru.

The celebrations, to be held next Monday, normally include a banquet, a reception for foreign diplomats and the emperor's greetings to well-wishers from a palace verandah.

The decision was made at the request of Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Prime Minister, according to a statement released by Sadame Kamakura, head of the Imperial Household Agency.

The opening of the plaza for the emperor's annual greetings is one of the few opportunities the average Japanese has to view the palace grounds.

world with terrorism, not the "poor people's struggle" that their daughter claims she was supporting.

"We are very distressed at the situation in Lima," said Mr Berenson. "We hope that the crisis is resolved expeditiously and peacefully."

An assistant at the office of Ramsey Clark, a former Attorney-General who is helping the Berensons, said the siege "certainly does not help some of the initiatives we are taking".

Mr Clark had garnered support from Administration officials and several US congressmen. But yesterday the New York Post demanded that American officials made no further efforts to assist her.

THE SUNDAY TIMES



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Russia stepping up spy activities, says FBI chief

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

LOUIS FREEH, Director of the FBI, said yesterday that Russia is increasing its efforts to spy on the United States, especially in economic espionage.

He said he would not underestimate the seriousness of the damage caused to national security by Earl Edwin Pitts, the senior FBI agent accused of selling US secrets to Moscow, although a full assessment has yet to be made.

Mr Pitts, 43, was arrested on Wednesday and charged with passing "everything" he could to the Russians between 1987 and 1992, when he worked in the FBI's New York unit responsible for catching Russian spies.

Mr Freeh told the Senate Judiciary Committee: "I think that Russian aggression has been unabated even in the post-Cold War. It's escalating. It's a serious and continuing problem."

He also disclosed that at least 23 foreign intelligence services are targeting the US and its economic infrastructure. But he said US counter-

intelligence has improved. That was one reason why three high-ranking American agents have been arrested for spying in the past three years.

US intelligence chiefs concede that today's well-paid traitors do not believe they are putting their country in as much peril as during the Cold War. Espionage is still personally ruinous and potentially fatal for those who are found out, but no longer carries an



Pitts: agent accused of selling FBI's secrets

overriding sense that millions of lives could be at stake.

As the three cases show, today's professional spies seem to spend more time unearthing secrets of national security. The alleged damage caused by Mr Pitts did not involve information about nuclear weapons, satellites or electronic technology. Nor was anyone killed as a result of his suspected treachery.

Mr Freeh had said earlier that the Russians' primary objectives were secrets of tradecraft. They wanted to know how the FBI works, its strengths and weaknesses, and what it knows about Russian agents in America. The FBI's privacy was violated and its pride hurt.

John Deutch, about to retire as CIA Director, explained how the end of the Cold War had changed espionage. He said: "A very few case officers in the CIA and other government agencies just don't think it's that big a deal any more to give away secrets. It seems to make it easier to spy for

money now because our country's survival is not at stake the way it was during the Cold War."

Oleg Kalugin, a former KGB chief of counter-intelligence and now a Washington business consultant, said: "In the old days, we were fighting for the minds of human beings across the continents. Today we don't see each other as mortal enemies, so why not play along with the other side as long as they're willing to pay you?"

Money rather than ideology was apparently the lure for the three latest accused. Moscow paid them handsomely, \$25 million (£15 million) in the case of Aldrich Ames, the CIA mole serving life for treason that led to the executions of ten Western agents.

Awaiting trial is Harold Nicholson, a former CIA station chief, who denies supplying the names of CIA recruits to Moscow for \$180,000. Mr Pitts allegedly received \$240,000, though the Russians craftily held back \$100,000 "on account".



The "holy" image dismissed by sceptics as caused by light and a garden sprinkler

Hundreds flock to see 'vision of Virgin'

BY QUENTIN LETTS

HUNDREDS of people have been gathering outside a glass-fronted office building in Clearwater, Florida, to stare at what they say is a vision of the Virgin Mary.

Shadows on the tall, smoked-glass windows appear to show a haloed figure resembling traditional depictions of the Blessed Virgin. But sceptics say the shape is caused by light refracted by water in a garden sprinkler.

The shape was first seen by a woman on Tuesday morning. She mentioned it to others, and within minutes a crowd had gathered. Later, spectators carrying rosary beads prayed in front of the image. Mary Stewart, of the Tampa Jesus Christian Centre, said: "I stepped out of my car and the presence of God almost drew me to my knees."

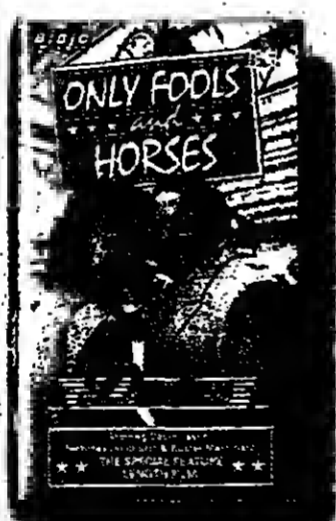
A spokesman for the Roman Catholic archdiocese of St Petersburg, Florida, said that "people should exercise a great deal of healthy scepticism" about the alleged vision.

Last eunuch of imperial China dies in temple

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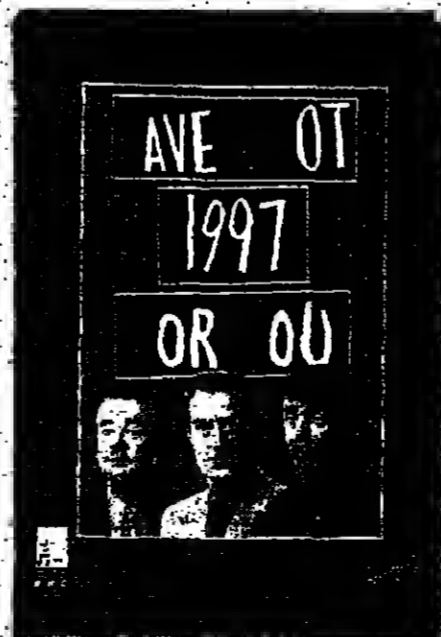
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New arrests after Paris terror blast

Paris: Anti-terrorist officers arrested 20 more suspected Islamic fundamentalists in dawn raids yesterday and police said bomb-making materials similar to those used in the recent attack on a commuter train had been found in a Paris department store (Ben Macintyre writes).

The raids follow the train bombing on December 3, which killed four people. Police blame the Algerian Armed Islamic Group, fighting to overthrow the French-backed Algerian Government.



Corozzo: faces sentence of 400 years in jail

Agents net 'big fish mafioso' in shallows

BY QUENTIN LETTS

AN ALLEGED Mafia godfather has been arrested as he relaxed on a Florida beach.

FBI agents pounced on Nicholas "Little Nick" Corozzo when the crime family was at his most vulnerable: wearing nothing but a pair of floral bathing trunks and splashing around in the shallows of Key Biscayne beach.

Mr Corozzo, 56, who was allowed to put on a tracksuit before being driven away for questioning, is understood to have replaced John Gotti as the most powerful mobster in America. Gotti is serving a life sentence. Mr Corozzo's arrest was in almost farcical contrast to the bespoke-suited antics of Gotti, whose nickname was "the Dapper Don".

Officers appeared to have made him look foolish deliberately. It also meant they could be confident that he was not carrying a weapon.

Mr Corozzo is believed to have taken over the Gambino family's operations recently, when it became clear that Gotti would not be returning for some time. The clan allegedly runs extensive rackets in New York, Florida and elsewhere. Mr Corozzo was charged with numerous counts of usury, extortion and conspiracy to murder.

When Mr Corozzo and another alleged New York mafioso, Ralph Devino, arrived at the FBI headquarters in Miami they were still wearing their wet trunks. Mr Corozzo faces jail sentences totalling 400 years if convicted of all 20 charges against him.

Seles claim for £10m rejected

Bonn: A German regional court dismissed a £10 million damages claim by Monica Seles, the tennis star, against the German Tennis Federation, organisers of the Hamburg tournament where a fan of Steffi Graf stabbed her in 1993 (Peter Bild writes).

The judges ordered Ms Seles to pay costs of £300,000. She was unable to play for nearly two years after the attack and was claiming for distress and loss of earnings.

Rao forced to quit as leader

Delhi: India's Congress Party, in decline after dominating politics for half a century, was in further turmoil last night after its parliamentary leader was forced to resign (Christopher Thomas writes).

P.V. Narasimha Rao, Prime Minister until last summer's election, faces at least three corruption charges and is blamed for the party's disastrous electoral performance.

Police held over Kenya killings

Nairobi: Fifteen Kenyan police officers were arrested after an outcry against the Government and judicial system prompted by the killing of three students in protests this week (Sam Kiley writes). One student was shot during a peaceful protest in Njoro. The other two were killed the following day in Nairobi.

Belly dancing to taxman's tune

Cairo: Egypt's 12 most famous belly dancers pay annually the equivalent of £160 million in taxes, making them the country's fifth largest source of income after receipts from the Suez Canal, tourism, oil and cotton, the Arab weekly al-Wassat reported. (AFP)

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Thai factory girls tell a different story about the cost of Christmas toys

FROM SUE LLOYD-ROBERTS IN BANGKOK
HER shoulders shook as she spoke. "Please, please don't tell anyone my name or show my picture. They will punish me if they know I am talking to you." This is not a tale of rape, murder or espionage. It is the story of workers in a toy factory in Thailand that makes Barbie dolls and the soft-toy version of the 101 Dalmatians that Disney is re-launching this Christmas.

the Catholic Institute for International Relations, are appealing to shoppers in Britain to hand into toyshops cards bearing the slogan "Fair play for toy workers". The card reads: "By next Christmas, I want to be able to buy 'people-friendly' toys from you". The targets of their campaign are factories in China and the Dynamic Factory outside Bangkok.

meet the employees after work in a cafe in the industrial suburb of Kratumban, where four years ago the Kader factory that made Cabbage Patch dolls burnt down; 189 workers, including children, were killed and 400 were injured.

Two years ago, a code of practice was introduced by the British Toy and Hobby Association on working conditions in manufacturing plants in Asia which supply Britain. It specifies maximum working hours and insists companies should abide by local labour laws.

worked at the factory for four years, but after I have worked for three or four months they make me resign and then reapply. That way, they don't have to pay me for holidays or sick leave."

(17p) or eight. Only the new ones got the full 12-baht increase, to encourage them to sign up to the factory." The Barbie dolls are made to order by the US toy giant Mattel, which boasted a turnover of \$2.3 billion last year. The company insists its personnel visit manufacturers regularly.

sary. Last night it said it had sent inspectors into the factory this week and found no evidence to substantiate the allegations.

Last eunuch of imperial China dies in temple

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING
CASTRATED at the age of eight, China's last surviving eunuch, who represented a rare bridge to the country's imperial past, has died in a Buddhist temple in Peking where he lived out the final years of a life of discrimination and repression, temple officials confirmed yesterday.

religious affairs bureau, Sun personally served Pu Yi's first wife, who was last empress of China. She died of opium addiction in 1946.

have been like for a little boy, who had no warning. There was no anaesthetic of any kind, though some herbs may have been applied. It was brutal and horrible. The agony was intense, and the eunuchs suffered their whole lives from chronic infections of the urinary tract — and without a penis it was very difficult to urinate.

— was terrible. "These little boys grew up never to know what it was to experience sexual desire or to produce offspring," he said.

households while others did mental tasks. One, Wei Chungdian, was accused of misrule that helped to hasten the end of the Ming dynasty.

aids, is springing up in Chinese cities. One of Peking's leading department stores near the diplomatic district has an Adam and Eve offshoot under the escalator in the basement. Women in white coats advise shoppers on sexual problems and how they can be treated.

But the report, by two government-appointed historians, highlights the way Swiss economic and banking interests dominated negotiations with the allies and Eastern European countries on the issue in the postwar period, to the exclusion of all other considerations.



Empress Hsuzi, who died in 1908, attended by eunuchs in the Forbidden City in Peking. Imperial China castrated thousands of servants

Holocaust claims rejected by Swiss

FROM PETER CAPELLA IN BERNE
A REPORT prepared for the Swiss Government and published yesterday rejects charges by world Jewish groups that Swiss companies and citizens were directly compensated with money from victims of the Holocaust in settlement of claims for property confiscated in Communist Eastern Europe after the Second World War.

Mother Teresa walks out of hospital

Delhi: Mother Teresa walked unsteadily out of hospital in Calcutta yesterday after nearly a month in intensive care (Christopher Thomas writes). She was taken to the headquarters of her Sisters of Charity order as doctors, nurses and onlookers applauded.

greeted about 200 people outside. She has been told that she cannot return to her normal workload as head of the order she founded.

Doctors would have liked her to stay in hospital longer, but she had become anxious to go home.

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	£50,000+	3.85	3.08	-	-
	£25,000+	3.75	3.00	-	-
	£10,000+	2.75	2.20	-	-
	£5,000+	2.05	1.64	-	-
	£2,500+	1.90	1.52	-	-
	£1,000+	1.60	1.28	-	-
	£1+	0.25	0.20	-	-
TESA	£8,400+	5.50	Gross	-	-
	£4,800+	5.40	Gross	-	-
	£1,000+	5.25	Gross	-	-
Cap. Accumulator	£1,200+	3.95	2.68	-	-
Charities Account	£1,000+	4.00	Gross	-	-
Clubs, Associations	£2,000+	2.60	2.08	-	-
Instant Access	£1+	0.25	0.20	-	-
Linked Companies	Instant Access	0.25	0.20	-	-
Deposits	£100+	0.25	0.20	-	-
Instant Gold	Instant Term Only	4.25	3.40	-	-
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Prudential Shares in cont. with Consider		2.25	1.80	-	-
Special Notice Shares	1st Issue	6.92	5.54	-	-
	2nd Issue	4.10	3.28	-	-
Robust Notice		4.10	3.28	-	-
Household 1st Issue		2.25	1.80	-	-
Household 2nd Issue		3.80	2.88	-	-
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'Boys can fly from flower to flower and enjoy romance'

John Sessions on the need for men to understand women better — and why he thinks of himself as a bluestocking who is not sexually attractive

John Sessions, self-styled Mr Swotty, will be seen on Christmas Day in a dramatisation of E. Nesbit's *The Treasure Seekers*. His childhood, though precocious, was not the kind where E. Nesbit's stories such as *The Railway Children*, of middle-class children falling on hard times, were read aloud in the nursery. But he has made up for it since. Mentally and intellectually, he inhabits the late Victorian age. We were going to meet in the Cadogan Hotel, which would doubtless have set him off on Wildean flights. The mere mention of the place has him quoting: "Mr Wilde, we must ask you to leave with us quietly, for this is the Cadogan Hotel." Did I know *Benjamin's* poem? Well of course. Conversation with Sessions would be hopeless without some literary prep.

He wears his learning on his sleeve, letting allusion and cross-reference team from his well-stocked mind. "Beggars, Estella!" he suddenly cries in the voice of Edith Evans playing Miss Havisham. And, "They smile at me who shortly shall be dead" in the voice of Alec Clunes playing Hastings in *Oliver's* Richard III. He discusses an Ibsen, comparing Nora in *A Doll's House* to Alison in *Look Back in Anger*. If he had actually completed his PhD thesis (on John Cowper Powys) and become Dr Sessions, perhaps he would not feel compelled to display his erudition; but then he would have been lost to the stage, which would have been a pity.

When he first arrived on television in 1983 in *After Midnight*, with Ken Livingstone and Andrew Wainwright — *Cave Anderson* was just the warm-up man — Sessions would sit alone addressing the camera, a little smile playing about his lips. The Scottish accent (he was born in Largs, but left Scotland at the age of three) inspired confidence; but he was already hard to place. What was he exactly? A sitcom comedian? A polemicist? We are still wondering. We know from *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* how easily he can improvise going to the dentist in the style of Hemingway, or Joyce. In cabaret, (for example at *Private Eye's* recent 35th anniversary party) he does his Andrew Neil and his Prince of Wales. In *My Night With Reg* and in *Tariffs*, and in Simon Gray's *The Common Pursuit*, he proved an impressive ensemble actor. But by inclination he is a one-man show man. After Napoleon, Boswell and Lord Leighton he would be doing Oscar Wilde, if Stephen Fry had not commandeered Oscar for now. Perhaps he could take on the priapic Frank Harris...

He draws constantly on the past. Talking of E. Nesbit (a founder Fabian who worked for the poor and fell in love with Shaw) leads him to the struggles of Jane Austen, Fanny Burney, Mrs Gaskell, George Eliot, the Brontës, *Louisa May Alcott*, Beatrix Potter. Consider, he said, how females in adversity had been written about by DeLoe, Richardson — and the "contained fury" that was the lot of any intelligent Victorian woman.

In *The Treasure Seekers*, the Bastable children try to stave off their widower father's financial ruin, aided by Sessions as the kindly bank manager. The fact that Mr Bastable is inventing a fridge leads Sessions to a discussion on the technological inventiveness of the Edwardians.

The photographer needed a picture. Sessions ("Could I just take a wee drop of that? — seizing a bottle of red wine from a waiter trying with undisguised impatience to clear up) removed his jacket and instantly began to clown like Chaplin and smirk like Stan Laurel for the camera.

That done, he returned, replaced jacket, and seamlessly proceeded to analyse the subject he was in. *Dora* Swab's relationship with her father. "Fathers and daughters — it's always King Lear and Cordelia," he mused. "I have observed it in my own family." He has a twin sister, Maggie, who after a difficult start (unlike her brother, she failed her 11-plus) is now a lawyer in Canada; he is spending Christmas with her. "We are very different," he says. "She looks like Sigourney Weaver, and she's always been a toughie. I have a theory that because girls, even when they're little, know they're going to produce babies, that makes them realists. Whereas boys know — depending on their proclivities — they can fly from flower to flower and enjoy the indulgence of romance. Even the way ones do."

After Bangor University, Sessions went to Canada to do his MA and started his PhD. Then a theatre director friend told him he should either carry on being the "barthes-blazered, silk-or-go professional" player in amateur dramatics or go professional. Hence his belated (at 26) application to drama school. Having got into the Guildhall, he went out celebrating and arrived at his Rada audition next morning with a terrific hangover. "I did Benedict's 'This can be no trick... from *Much Ado*. Hugh Cruttwell said: 'That was terrible. You weren't acting, you were doing an impersonation of what an actor sounds like.'" So he did a bit of Pinter's *The Homecoming*, and was awarded a scholarship. Working alongside Toby Stephens and Gerar-



John Sessions: "I've spread myself too widely. I thought the game was jumping out of as many holes as possible — but it confuses people"

dine Chaplin last summer (on a film of *Cousin Bertie*) made him ponder on the problems of the children of the famous. "You remember in *The Prelude*, when Wordsworth rows away across the lake and the mountain above seems to follow him... get bigger?" I think all these whose folks are in the business — wee Beckinsale, wee Sam West — have these huge shadows after them. But it drives them too."

Not long ago Sessions spoke of withdrawing his benefice from the Labour Party. His vote remains with them. "But they have 'cabind', cribbd, and confin'd' (*Macbeth*) some of their more eloquent spokesmen, like Tony Benn. The inner sanctum of the party tries to appear crisp, clean, efficient, cost-effective. They have assumed the agenda of the regime they combat. "But perhaps people like myself should realise that Churchill had to break a few eggs to defeat

Hitler. So I'll be sending them lots of money. But I don't want to see any hysterical public relations campaigns. I don't want them to spend it on T-shirts."

Which leads him to "broadcasting, and poor John Birt taking on the digital revolution. "I wish more people would come to his aid in his deeply courageous fight to preserve public broadcasting. The BBC's role is to lead and educate. It is the very crucible of our democracy. If public broadcasting goes, I will leave this country."

He is an avid listener to *Woman's Hour* ("Jenni Murray should have an OBE") and says it behoves all men "whatever their denomination" to know more about women. He lives in Putney in solitary splendour on two floors of "a big white wedding cake of a house", but hankers after

Pimlico. In *The Treasure Seekers*, we see him at the wheel of a grand old DeDion Bouton; in real life he failed his driving test twice and gave up. It turns out he auditioned for second Weasel in the *Wind in the Willows* film — "I played him as Alan Carter" — but did not get it. Meanwhile he is writing a show for Rebecca Front, on Picasso, *My Night With Reg* will be televised next spring. But tempting offers do not, he says, come tumbling onto his doormat. It's the old problem: what is he? "I'm a bit of a bluestocking, not instantly sexually attractive, and my comedy suits some people but some think it doesn't exist."

He will be 44 in January, so he is "into the second wind of the career". He thinks he has done all right so far, but not as well as he should have. "I've spread myself too widely. I thought the game was jumping out of as many holes as possible — but actually, that just confuses people."



THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW

Why America's mothers are fighting it out over Elmo

Toy stores in America this December have witnessed ugly scenes, reminiscent of wartime England when a fresh delivery of nylons reached the local F.W. Woolworth. The rationed goods, this time, are not toffee bon-bons, Barmley chops, or chicken necks. The things American parents are going mad for — at the behest of their children — are plump, reddish dolls which, when touched, will squirm and emit funny noises. They are called Tickle Me Elmo dolls and they have been an unexpected and quite amazing success.

In New Brunswick, a sales assistant was crushed under a surge of Elmo-deprived shoppers and taken to hospital. His branch of Wal-Mart had just received a consignment of Tickle Me Elmos and the poor fellow did not move fast enough. Whoosh! Trampled underfoot he was, and later borne away on a stretcher to be treated for shock and bruises.

Since the Christmas shopping season began in earnest, television news pictures have shown hordes of Elmo activity in local malls. There was the woman who held a one-armed Elmo. "Some other Mom said she saw it first and we got into a tug-of-war," she explained. "Elmo got torn in two." She waved the doll's remaining paw at the camera to show the triumph of good over evil.

In New York City, with the Italianate swag that has made his family one of the most feared in that smoky conurbation, John Gotti Jr and some associates made what the boys in his trade call "a courtesy call" to the nearby outlet of Toys 'R' Us. Mr Gotti is a capo of the Genovese Mafia clan. "Got any Elmo dolls, please?" he asked the toyshop manager with exquisite politeness, his little pinky raised in supplication. And what do you know, by some miracle they did have a few. A whole case, to be precise, which was handed over by the toy shop manager with a certain tremulousness of hand.

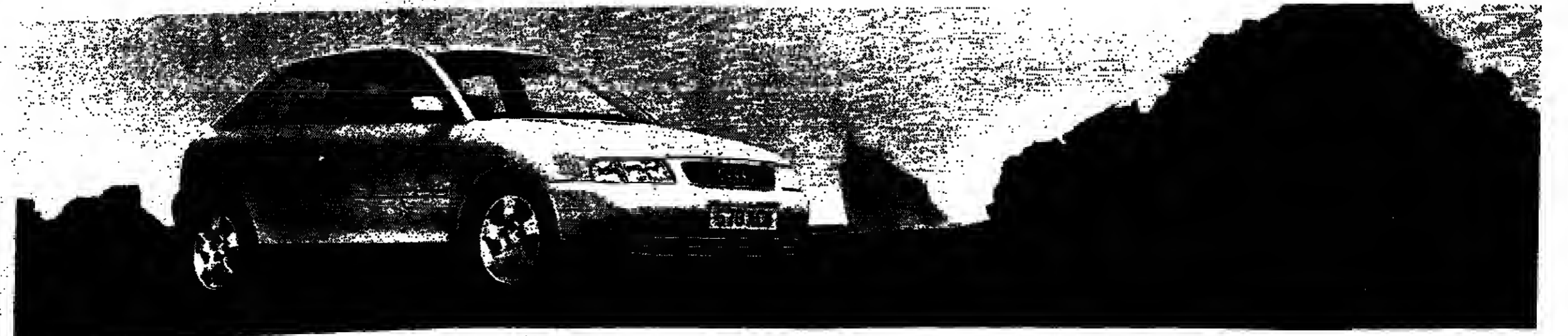
When a Mafia man wants something so bad he says "please", you know things are hot.

According to its manufacturer, Tyco Preschool, the shortage occurred because the trade made a monumental booboo about how popular the furry little thing was going to be. Reaction at the US Toy Fair in February was little more than lukewarm and Tyco estimated selling 300,000 of the \$30 (£18) dolls. Things started to pick up in

October, when Tyco cranked up its *Faz East machines* to make 50,000 Elmos a week. By Christmas Eve the company will probably have sold one million Elmos.

As with pork-pies in wartime Weybridge, a black market has developed. Outside FAO Schwarz, the big Manhattan toy shop, Elmos have been going for five times retail price. Charity auctions of Elmos have seen bids of more than \$1,000. The story of the doll's creator has also touched hearts. Ron Druben, a skinny bloke with the looks of Steve

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You're test driving the new Audi A3. Do you:
a) find a narrow ravine with a broken bridge, slam into second and leap the gap shouting 'Geronimo'? b) roar past a wall of fire at the side of the road to an eighties soundtrack? c) just go for a drive?
Audi A3

A bridge too far for London

Roger Scruton indicts the latest monstrosity of a modernist cartel

Londoners have abruptly been informed of a project to build a new bridge across the Thames — a habitable bridge, supporting flats and offices. The structure, designed by the French modernist Antoine Grumbach, will dominate the Thames, and cast the diminutive St Paul's into shadow. The Royal Academy tells us that "the public" has voted two to one in favour of it. Only a few bureaucrats remain to be persuaded of this idea and the hideous reality.

It is surprising to be told of this popular desire for Grumbach's building, at a time when educated Londoners are turning their backs on modernism, relieved to find that architects still exist who are prepared to respect the old human scale, the old line of the street, and the old sense of detail inherited from the classical tradition. Clearly something is afoot, and this case is a telling illustration of the process whereby a modernist establishment has perpetuated itself, manipulating our rulers and planners, and imposing its half-baked schemes for social regeneration on the voiceless multitudes below.

The vote announced by the Royal Academy was about as reliable an indicator of popular opinion as elections in the old Soviet Union. Here is the story, as I understand it.

The choice was only between rival modernists

Secondly, establishments that used to be composed of sober, conservative people, with inherited status that they were anxious to preserve, are now formed in another and opposing way. In the modern world, patronage is in the hands of the State — in other words, in the hands of the bureaucrats, politicians and scoundrels who live from our taxes, and who have a vested interest in change since it is the motor of their own advancement. "Progress" is the ideology through which these apparatuses assert and justify their domination.

Finally we should take account of the appeal of modernist ideas for the half-educated. Modernism wipes away piecemeal knowledge and slowly acquired wisdom, and puts a comprehensive system in their place. As every child with a Lego set can discover, it requires neither culture nor talent nor skill to be a modernist. At the same time, modernism enables its adepts to posture as members of an enlightened avant-garde. In the words of Shakespeare, the most ingenious way of becoming foolish is by a system.

That, in short, is how it is that the presidency of the Royal Academy — an institution founded to safeguard artistic values against the corrosion of the modern world — came to be bestowed upon someone wedded to an aesthetic which threatens our architectural heritage, and which clatters our once beautiful city with projects from which no one gains beside the cartel of architects who promote them.

The competition is not put out to tender. On the contrary, the judges invite seven carefully selected firms of architects to submit six designs: six modernist, and one taken reactionary (Krier Associates). The judges, failing to agree, choose two "winning designs" — one the piece of modernist kitsch by Grumbach, the other a typical doodle from Zaha

Hadid, which looks like a flow chart produced by a crazed computer. Only then is anyone else asked to vote, choosing one of the "winning designs" in preference to the other. The voters are the tiny section of the public that has passed through the Royal Academy's exhibition, itself arranged so as to present these childish jokes as artistic projects on a level with the triumphal bridge of Soane or the great "living bridges" of Venice, Florence and Rome. Do you remember the glorious days of Soviet communism, when each seat in the Soviet was contested by two candidates, both chosen by the Party?

Grumbach's bridge reminds me of nothing so much as the bridge in Bratislava — a comparable piece of kitsch suspended from a single point, which crashes into the old town, demolishes half of it, dwarfs the Church of St Nicholas, and reduces the Danube to a dirty puddle. This bridge too was built by "popular request", under orders from the ruling élite of the Communist Party.

So how does modernism work? First, modernist projects are huge, expensive and result in buildings with vast maintenance costs. Hence they are, from the point of view of their architects, immensely lucrative, and the source of permanent income in the form of constant repair work.

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"Four calling birds, three French hens, two turtle doves & a partridge in a pear tree."

Growing up as killers

How did children in Britain learn to take human life? We are living in an age that is unshockable

I have always admired the Labour MP Frank Field. His work is sensible and honest, and he helps those who need help. A while ago, he wrote an article in the *Daily Mail* which — but let him speak for himself:

They are the new barbarians: a growing army of louts and thugs who make life hell for my most vulnerable constituents. The biggest change I have seen in my Birkenhead constituency since I was elected in 1979 is the seemingly unstoppable rise of this underclass of brutish and almost unemployable young males who "mature" into anti-social, often criminal, adults.

I said that I admire Field, and I do, but I have to add that if he has just discovered these barbarians, he must have been asleep for a considerable time. Let us begin with three photographs. The first is a man in middle age; he is one of three brothers. He lives rough, but doesn't seem to mind, and he can always be found on a park bench. He is a known and friendly figure. The second photograph shows a young boy, aged 13. He looks a nice lad, with a pleasing smile. The third character is the same age, but he looks a nasty little runt. He is. So was the other boy — his smile was untrue.

The two boys — remember they were both 13 — tortured the homeless man to death. He was robbed, hit, kicked, covered by poured molten plastic, and finally set alight. His burns were such that he was in agony for three weeks before he died.

I repeat that the two boys were 13 years of age in plain English; they killed a human being for fun. Now, what I want to know is — how did little children in Britain become killers?

Pass. But try this. Peter Moore, 50, the homosexual owner of a cinema chain killed four men for the pleasure he derived from the act of murder. The men he killed were complete strangers, none of whom had done anything to annoy or aggravate him. Moore's first victim was Henry Roberts, a retired railwayman who lived as a recluse near Anglesey. The second victim was Edward Carthy, who was stabbed to death with a combat knife, and of whom Moore said, "I think he was a bit frightened, actually". The third was Tony Davies. His fourth victim was Keith Randles, and Moore said this about

the way his victim died: "There was a certain enjoyment from it but the enjoyment certainly wasn't sexual. Like everything, it was a job well done. You know, the job was done." When a victim asked why he was going to be killed, Moore replied "For fun".

Now we turn to the old man (truly old — he was 84), Kenneth Speakman, who was a member of a shooting club in Ramsgate; he was murdered for his guns. He was a highly respected resident of Ramsgate. He was very sprightly. He had been interested in guns all his life. He was a very conscientious person and he was a firm believer in keeping his guns locked away securely. But when the thieves broke in, the guns were not just stolen: Speakman was beaten and strangled, for no comprehensible reason.

We have all read of the dreadful killing of Louise Allen. Again, one of the killers was 13, and the other was 12. The innocent child was kicked to death.

Are you feeling sick? You will be much, much sicker. Try this headline: "Widow, 94, raped by youth in graveyard". Harken to the widow:

I decided to take a walk down to the graveyard. I wanted to go to see the flowers of my neighbour's husband's grave. I thought I would go through the grass. I was walking towards the grave and I passed my husband's plaque when someone from behind pushed me and I fell to the ground. He seemed amused and was laughing. I was screaming and yelling as loud as I could. I said to him "Why don't you get a younger woman? I am in my nineties." He said "It doesn't make any difference." I was helpless and there was nothing I could do.

The young man who did that, Steven Barton, has been caught, tried, convicted and has started a 12-year sentence.

Now do please believe me when I say that this hideous catalogue of dreadfulness is not compiled just to cause nausea, though there is plenty of it. You know, the job was done." When a victim asked why he was going to be killed, Moore replied "For fun".

But there is more. A wandering man, whom none would harm, found himself harmed to death, and a very terrible one it was. But that is not the point: killers abound, and all ways have. More to the point, the shocking Bulger case was not only a "one-off", but something quite different: it is clear that the boys who did the deed had no conception of murder or indeed any kind of evil.

But the two who killed Alan White, and killed him in the most dreadful manner imaginable, were only 13 years old and should have known exactly what they were doing. As should those children who killed Louise Allen.

These are not scraps from my album, and if they were, there would be a clue. When the Louise Allen case was in court, someone murmured these words: "It is another shocking example of school-age gang violence sweeping the country." And what did Frank Field say? "They are the new barbarians; a growing army of louts and thugs who make life hell for my most vulnerable constituents."

True, but it is only the edge. Louts and thugs, new barbarians, stone-throwers, yes, but this is not adequate to describe the world we are now sliding into. I want to know why that hideous killing of Alan White took place, and I must know why a little child did it.

And again, I turn to the terrible impossible. Hear the prosecutor for the case saying, "There is no doubt the defendants knew that what they were doing was wrong". Then in the name of God, how did such children know what it is to kill

another human being, and even how it is done?

I say it again. There are, in our civilised Great Britain, children who are hardly out of their swaddling-clothes who know how to kill human beings, and some of them have already actually killed human beings, and some of those have killed human beings for fun.

And the father of the dead child said: "We have tried to bring our children up correctly, but law and order is a joke when you have got gangs running around wild. We never hit Louise even once, we didn't have to. You only had to shout at her and she would burst into tears." And the father of the dead child added: "I brought her up the way I was brought up myself — respect your elders, be polite and have good manners."

When did the rope break? How did Peter Moore manage to murder four separate men, none of them known to any of the others? And when one of his victims was in his grasp, and he was ready for murder, how did he feel? He tells us, plainly — though it is scarcely credible — that he did it for fun.

And the 94-year-old lady who was raped in a graveyard, and whose assailant laughed as he did so? And the 84-year-old gun-expert whose guns were stolen, while the owner was strangled?

My *par-pourri* of horror is not, I assure you, just to make your blood freeze. I choose these horrors — and especially those involving children — because Frank Field, and myself are now living in an era that we cannot understand. In the time of Dickens it would not be strange to find child criminals of 13 or younger. But we are not in the time of Dickens, we are in the time of the millennium. And he would be a remarkably optimistic man who, surveying such horrors, would pat a head or two and say that lads will be lads and indeed lasses will be lasses, particularly if he is having his head broken and his throat cut at the same time.

Once upon a time, a naughty little boy might throw an apple-core out of the speeding train, and all the other people would be shocked. But now, a headline in *The Times* cries out "Souring vandalism threatens murder on railway" and all the other people are not shocked.

Philip Howard



'Parliaments past? Bah,' said Stooze, 'Humbugi!'

The bell of his bleeper pealed only once. But it was a peal to waken the dead. Awakening in the middle of a prodigiously rough snore, and sitting up in bed to get his thoughts together, Ebenezer Stooze reached across for his portable telephone.

As leader of his party, he automatically assumed that the call came from a researcher for the *Today* programme, desirous of asking him whether he was disappointed not to be "elected" by telephonic stampede as its personality of the year. And then to interrupt him aggressively as soon as he made to answer. But an unearthly light was streaming from the next chamber, as from a television studio, and there were no make-up personnel to rakoon the cold sweat from Stooze's brow.

"Come in!" exclaimed the Ghost, for ghost it must have been. "Come in! and know me better. Mighty Statesman! For I am the Ghost of Question Times Past. And I have come to show you the error of your ways. So take hold of the hem of my tunic."

The Speaker of Question Times Past was a handsome woman dressed in buckles and bows. She smiled at Stooze in a lofty but not unfriendly way. And as he grasped her tunic, they seemed to be whisked in an instant high up into the highest gallery of the debating chamber he knew so well, and where he continually strove to lead his party when he was not following it.

As usual, the hall was clamorous with folly and simulated passion. The backstairs rebels and pigs on his back benches were in full cry, baring for Bedlam. The microphones crackled with the bellowing of the mad cows of both sexes, enraged about Eurines, the new coinage proposed for Europe. A new leakage of sleaze was driving them wild. And a tired grey figure at the dispatch box was trying to repeat for the third time the empty soundbite that his rhetoric coaches had written and rehearsed for him.

Stooze pointed a trembling finger at the figure at the dispatch box. "Dread Spectre," he cried "Can that be...?" But the spectral Speaker was already dragging Stooze backwards through time to a more gracious parliamentary age. Prime Minister's Questions were then no bullying. The statesman at the dispatch box (he looked like the Walrus in *Alice*) was reading an answer he had composed for himself in fountain pen on the back of an envelope. It merely said that he proposed to transfer the question to his right honourable friend, whose responsibility it was.

Back, back up the years, they flew to the old Chamber before it was burnt down by the bonfire of the tally-sticks on which the Treasury did its sums for centuries before the computer. The statesman at the dispatch box was grating in the stately periods of a bygone age. "How is it possible that any honourable man editing a public paper of such circulation as *The Times* can reconcile to his conscience the act of having made public that which he must have known was intended to be a public secret?"

And a gentleman in the press gallery was scribbling his reply in print: "We hold ourselves to be responsible, not to politicians, but to the people of England for the accuracy and fitness of that which we think proper to publish. Whatever we conceive to be injurious to the public interests, it is our duty to withhold. But we ourselves are judges quite as proficient on that point as the Prime Minister or the Leader of the Opposition."

"So not even then in those allegedly golden days could the doctors spin those rascals of the press to write what we wanted," exclaimed Stooze. "Good Spirit," he pursued, as down upon the ground he fell before her, "I promise that I will honour the Spirit of Question Time Past. I will ask serious questions and give proper answers. I will see the Good even in my most tiresome colleagues. I will not take myself too seriously nor treat my opponents sarcastically. (Here take in a good deal of Dickensian sentimentality. For Dickens was a post-modernist before his time, constantly stepping outside his text to address the Reader.)

And so, as the Spectre Speaker observed, God bless Us, Every One! And thank God they are all going home to spend more time with their families. For

Double Chinn

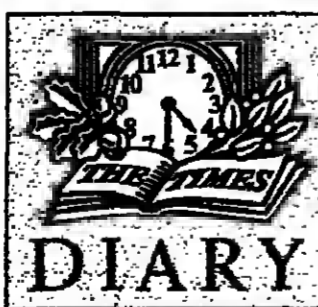
ONE of Tony Blair's greatest financial supporters popped up on Wednesday evening at a fund-raising dinner for a leading Conservative organisation. Sir Trevor Chinn, head of Lex Services, one of the country's biggest car dealerships, was named last month as one of the superleague who had given substantially to the blind trust fund which provides finance for Tony Blair's private office. The entire fund is worth some £500,000.

One Wednesday evening, however, he brought a table of ten to a fundraising dinner at the Café Royale in London for the Conservative Friends of Israel. "It is an organisation within the arena of the Conservative Party," Chinn reluctantly admitted yesterday. So within the arena. In fact, that the Prime Minister turned up to make a speech. A six-figure sum was raised for the Conservative Central Office will be receiving a tidy slice of that.

"My interest is in Israel," insists Chinn. "I am just as involved with the Labour Friends of Israel." Just to complete the circle, Chinn

donor." So to sum up Chinn's position: not really a considerable donor to Labour while not the sort to attend real Conservative dos. The politicians would be proud.

Alan Howarth, the Tory MP who defected to Labour last year, continues to rise within his new party. He is still looking for a seat, but he has just been co-opted on to the executive of the Fabian Society. "He joined the society as soon as



he defected," says Stephen Twigg, the general secretary. "He will continue to contribute to the debate about the party's direction." Not that the Webbs would approve.

Roman home

ITALIAN-SPEAKER required, with background in the arts, to take over as curator of the Keats-Shelley memorial house in Rome. Undoubtedly one of the most agreeable berths in arts management, the house has been occupied by Bathsheba Abse, 37, for the past six years, which included the bicentenaries of the births of both Keats and Shelley. Now, recently married to an Italian diplomat and heading with him to Brussels, she is leaving reluctantly.

and Alexandra visited the house, near the Spanish Steps, for the first time. The job comes with a very noisy flat beneath the house," says Ms Abse, "so it is not a job for someone who wants a tranquil life. But for me, Italy has been what Keats called the 'paradise of exiles'."

Well spent?

MOTHER TERESA'S improving health is good news all round, except down at the accounts department of CNN in New Delhi where there is something of a conflict of interests. The network's bureau



has spent an inordinate slice of its annual budget maintaining a round-the-clock vigil outside the Calcutta hospital where she recently underwent heart surgery.

CNN's headache was turning into a migraine yesterday when Mother Teresa, who has suffered a heart attack, pneumonia, lung disease and kidney disease in the past three months, tottered cheerily into a waiting limousine to return to her convent for Christmas — swiftly followed by the CNN film crew.

Early mornings in Porto Ercole, the seaside playpen for Rome's Alfa Spider classes, will be quieter after the death of Morcello Mastrotroiani. As the town's maturing signore pottered around buying their pannini, Mastrotroiani would emerge from his home up on the hillside in full cycling kit, lycra shorts included. Then mounting a multi-geared racer he would swoop down through the town and off for a heart-pumping ride. His return was a much sweeter uphill business.

New material

MADONNA'S performance as Evita is as nothing, say her friends, to her Andrew Lloyd Webber act. She has apparently perfected a



Eviva Evita

tion, the two spent many dinge hours together in rehearsal, and naturally enough for a performer Madonna is said to have had Sir Andrew's voice and mannerisms off pat.

Sir Andrew was apparently blissfully unaware of the double act taking place. Although she is in London for the opening of the film of *Evita*, Madonna has not been spending enough time with Sir Andrew to try out her impersonation on him.

SPLAK VII VII

DONS AND DEAS

EVEREST OF THE SPIRIT



SPEAK, MEMORY

From Brixton to Bahamas: the dangers of politicians abroad

Many statesmen, from Julius Caesar to General Galtieri, have embarked on adventures abroad to burnish their reputation. But the past too is a foreign country ripe for colonisation by politicians.

This week Tony Blair took the trip down memory lane that John Major, Bill Clinton and Ronald Reagan have followed before him. The trip was not an unalloyed success. His TV tale of a failed teenage trip to the Bahamas seems to have been more heavily embroidered than the Bayeux tapestry. Archer's syndrome, the condition of allowing natural creativity free play with one's memory of life before politics, is not, it seems, confined to Lord Archer.

We should not, however, be too censorious: we recipients of memories must share some of the guilt with the inventors of them. Politicians are now too packaged; every sound they emit is too bitten into shape; voters are thirsty for evidence of what their leaders are really like. The better they know what they did before they entered public life, the better they think they can judge their real fitness for it.

The public interest in Mrs Blair and Mrs Major may seem a frivolous distraction from the real beauty contest between competing tax regimes. But voters are fascinated by the leaders' wives because their choice of partner was the most important decision Messrs Blair and Major made before they entered the Commons. The choice of Cherie and Norma can be held to say more about their respective spouses than any number of, rarely enlightening, keynote speeches about core values.

Party spin-doctors, sensitive to how suspicious the public have become of current pronouncements, have become increasingly alive to the power of the past. Try Memory, or Coldharbour, Lane, Prime Minister. A boyhood in Brixton is now thought to communicate concern for the less fortunate more effectively than the pledge of another billion pounds for the National Health Service. The Marxists have been proved right: the personal, now, is always political. President Clinton was elected on a

promise to re-invent Government but his main political achievement seems to have been re-inventing himself. Slick Willie, the hustler from Hot Springs, a louche Arkansas gambling town became Bill, the boy from a town called Hope who in his journey from fatherless cabin to the Governor's mansion embodied the American Dream.

Mr Blair has been criticised for borrowing from the US President's campaign style. But it is Mr Major's own dramatisation of his journey from two rooms in South London to 10 Downing Street that seems the more obvious homage. From the 1992 election broadcast *The Journey* to the 1996 party conference sideswipe at Labour's old school ties, Mr Major has turned his narrative into a metaphor for meritocracy. Mr Major's earliest years in the suburban security of Worcester Park, his undistinguished academic record and his reliance on the patronage of others, such as Anthony Barber, have all been eclipsed by the careful construction of a Major myth.

Mr Blair, whose journey from Pettes to the Bar via St John's College Oxford is hardly an odyssey of the underprivileged, has had to work hard to pepper his past with moving moments. In his party conference speech this year the Labour leader opened his heart to talk of his father's illness. The emotion was sincere but the effect was mixed. The British, despite the efforts of Vanessa and Esther, tend not to like their emotions raw. Bared souls induce the same embarrassment among most Britons as bared bodies, even at special seaside corals such as nudist beaches or party conferences.

Mr Blair's latest schoolboy memory, bunking off to the Bahamas, seems as though it might have been designed to convey a hint of rebelliousness, to temper the Labour leader's toothy wholesomeness. Mr Blair may feel that sharing his past sins makes him more human; so it may do. But it would be desirable if politicians refrained from telling the voters so much about the journeys they have made in the past and so little about where they propose to take the country in the future.

DONS AND DATA

Assessment of university research is difficult but worthwhile

League tables and external scrutiny are now an established part of British education. While schools may not love them the tables have been accepted and in some cases actively embraced. In so far as any debate about them remains it concerns the best means of producing the most informative material. Universities, on the other hand, show few signs of even grudging respect for external evaluation. Although the figures published yesterday, and reproduced in *The Times* this morning, are the result of the fourth such review in ten years, they still have few friends in the common rooms.

Some of the more lurid accusations of the past — such as the claim that the whole concept was a monstrous threat to academic freedom — seem to have been quietly dropped. Instead complaints focus in three main areas: that the bureaucratic demands made in collecting the required data are excessive; that it is impossible to make meaningful judgments between radically different forms of research; and that funding should not be contingent on this formula.

All three arguments have some truth but not enough to invalidate the project. Any system which requires 60 panels to examine 69 subject areas through four submitted pieces of research per staff member is going to generate an enormous amount of paperwork. After the last exercise in 1992 the Higher Education Funding Council promised a less burdensome structure for future years. It has not delivered. Such bureaucracy clearly imposes costs in terms of academic time. But there have also been benefits. Even dons in the most ancient of universities will concede, through gritted teeth, that outside pressure has forced them to develop research strategies and deal with

those staff members whose output has been inexcusably low or persistently poor.

It is not easy to devise objective criteria for measuring research quality. With schools there is an agreed and commonly identified common benchmark — examination results — that can be used as a yardstick. No such simple medium exists for the output of dons. Nonetheless, both in the arts and sciences there are enough similarities to allow for the sort of intensive peer group review that was the hallmark of the 1996 enterprise. Academics seem content to use the same technique when deciding upon the appointments of professors. Engaging in the abstract thesis that there is no such notion as objective good may make for stimulating philosophical debate. It is not a basis from which the Department for Education can proceed.

On the matter of funding the critics have a valid point. After 1992 an elite set of 15 mostly older universities suggested that they receive virtually all available resources to concentrate on research while the rest made teaching their near-exclusive purpose. That was always a rather self-serving suggestion. It would be very hard to justify on the results now published. Some 59 universities have at least one department that has attained the highest grade available, one that implies the majority of output is at an international standard. That does not suggest that research funding should be allocated wholly on so narrow a basis.

The majority of our universities should continue to seek both high-quality research and teaching. This research exercise has highlighted a broadly based improvement since four years ago. Most dons would support that conclusion even if they detest the means by which it was generated.

EVEREST OF THE SPIRIT

The risk may be less but the search remains the same

Sir Ranulph Fiennes failed in his latest quest to trek alone across the breadth of Antarctica. Kidney stones crippled him after only 26 days, and he had to be airlifted to hospital in Chile. Yesterday he returned to Britain, a haggard and disappointed man. Yet even his failure has something heroic about it. The ageing, craggy explorer set himself one of the most challenging endurance tests in the world's most inhospitable continent, and made rapid progress. He continued even when in agony, crossing a formidable ridge in a near blizzard and displaying to the video camera the toll this took on his handaged feet and broken body. On arriving at Heathrow he announced that he is off to Siberia for his next expedition.

Sir Ranulph is a very English eccentric, in the tradition of Scott, Livingstone, Wilfred Thesiger and others who have battled their way through deserts and icefields beyond the endurance of ordinary mortals, surviving as much on willpower as on their meagre rations. Getting there first was the motive that drove them on. The satisfaction for Livingstone and Sir Edmund Hillary was to plant their flags in places where their countrymen had never ventured before; Scott paid with his life for his determination to achieve similar glory for England. In all,

willpower combined with obstinacy, hubris and masochism to fashion bodies and nerves of steel.

Critics can point to the artificial nature of such ventures nowadays. For if an explorer is crippled by frostbite, a lone yachtsman becalmed or a balloonist marooned in the desert, he can radio for help and wait until he is airlifted to safety. For Amundsen, Magellan and Lindbergh there was no such lifeline; they were testing the limits of endurance and technology on their own, and either made it or died in the attempt. Nowadays there are few natural frontiers left to explore, apart from the deepest trenches of the seabed or the wastes of outer space. Those who set out to walk across the Antarctic, race to the North Pole or circumnavigate the globe in a tiny vessel are imposing upon themselves conditions that they could ignore if they wished.

The challenge nowadays has therefore subtly changed. Those who excite our imagination and awe are the men and women who pitch themselves not against the simple elements but against their own handicaps or limitations. Sir Ranulph is now 52. His body bears the scars of earlier expeditions, and each further quest is a greater physical and psychological Everest.

Duke's views on gun legislation

From Mr Tony Hill

Sir, The Duke of Edinburgh likens guns to cricket bats (reports, December 19). If Thomas Hamilton had entered a gym with a cricket bat in his hand how many people could he have battered to death before being restrained by the adults?

The Duke should consider the real reasons for a call to ban handguns (letters, December 16, 17). Our society is getting more and more violent, and many of us do feel threatened. No doubt most members of gun clubs are "peaceable" citizens, and of no general risk, but there is that possibility that their guns could be used in anger or distress, as were Michael Ryan's and Thomas Hamilton's. Both were accepted members of the shooting fraternity until they turned their guns on innocent people.

The removal of any weapons from circulation has got to be a good step.

Yours etc,
TONY HILL,
15 The Slade,
Silverstone, Northamptonshire,
December 19.

From the Reverend Charles Jenkin

Sir, The Duke of Edinburgh is mistaken when he says the Government's Bill on handgun legislation is blaming the shooting community for the tragedy at Dunblane. The type of weapons themselves was a significant factor in what drove Thomas Hamilton.

It is surely not incidental that the atrocities at Hungerford and Dunblane were committed with automatic and high-calibre weapons, the sheer power of which can go to a madman's head. The nature of .22 handguns and rifles, by contrast, encourages more self control.

More stringent checks on individuals will not help, in my view: is the shooting community really prepared to put up with the invasion of privacy, and extremely cautious presumption of fitness, that would be necessary to stop determined and ingenious psychopaths from obtaining high-powered weapons legally? The only way is to ban them.

Far from being a kneejerk reaction or fudge, the legislation's main proposals appear to me to find a very good balance between appropriate gun control and the legitimate rights of shooters. Why does anyone need to target-shoot with .45 pistols if not to participate in some way in an unhealthy macho culture? My view that this is immoral was confirmed when I saw a TV news report showing images of human beings as targets in a gun club.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES JENKIN,
The Rectory, 67 Dalby Road,
Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire,
December 19.

From Mr Mark Marsh

Sir, Predictably, those who seek the prohibition of handguns have responded with emotion and crude insult to the Duke of Edinburgh's remarks.

I applaud the Duke. I have never owned a handgun, and have no wish to, but I do wish this debate were conducted in a rational manner. I regret that, thus far, it has been driven by emotion and I agree with Douglas Hurd that this is no basis for legislation.

Yours faithfully,
MARK MARSH,
5 Columbus Square,
Manor Road, Erith, Kent,
December 18.

From Mr K. Seedhouse

Sir, When Thomas Hamilton planned the destruction of the children of Dunblane, the termination of his own life was presumably of equal importance to his tormented mind. Perhaps the Duke has not considered how Hamilton could turn a cricket bat against himself.

Yours faithfully,
K. SEEDHOUSE,
4 The Burrows,
Cuddington, Cheshire,
December 19.

From Mr L. T. Allen

Sir, The Duke of Edinburgh obviously felt that it is better to be right than politically correct.

Yours faithfully,
L. T. ALLEN,
30 Prescott Fields,
Baschurch, Shropshire,
December 19.

Support for disabled

From the Reverend Peter D. McGuire

Sir, Alan Challoner (letter, December 12) says that caring for a disabled child "may undermine the family structure, causing disruption in the lives of siblings, and unmitigated stress to their parents".

The fact that many "normal" children also have these effects surely points to problems and stresses of family life being more complicated than he suggests.

Yours sincerely,
PETER D. MCGUIRE,
9 Castle Hill, Ekington,
Sheffield, South Yorkshire,
December 12.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

UK universities 'at a crossroads'

From Sir Richard Luce,
Vice-Chancellor of the
University of Buckingham

Sir, In your report of December 13 on the LSE governing body's decision, in principle, to allow the introduction of top-up fees for students (see also leading article, December 14), you refer to the experience of the University of Buckingham as the only independent university.

May I, as retiring Vice-Chancellor of that university, impart to your readers a view that I have formed after five years' experience of higher education. Universities in the UK are at a crossroads. The dramatic but welcome expansion in access to higher education of recent years has also seen a reduction in taxpayers' support per student. If this continues, we shall see a steady deterioration in the quality of higher education.

One painful example of this is the decline in staff/student ratios and small tutorials. The chances are that, whichever party forms a government after the general election, it will not have sufficient taxpayers' resources available to sustain a high-quality university education, in view of the range of other priorities in primary and secondary education and health services, and the pressure to contain public spending.

This presents a unique opportunity for Sir Ron Dearing's committee, appointed by the Government with the support of the Labour Party, to produce a coherent set of recommendations for the maintenance of high-quality British universities in the next century.

A radical rather than piecemeal approach is needed, but one that is implemented over a reasonable time-span. We must give all universities their independence by freeing them from dependence on direct government funding.

That freedom will facilitate a diverse range of universities able to accommodate an increasingly large and varied student market — from school leavers to mature students studying full-time or part-time, using a number of learning methods. Universities' success will depend upon matching the quality of service they can offer the student to the purposes of their particular missions.

This strategy must be buttressed by a new funding system, at the heart of which should be the recognition that those students who can afford to do so should have to pay a share of their tuition fees. The LSE has proposed a sliding-scale method of support governed by the income of the student or their parents. Those who are not being funded directly by the State must be encouraged to develop savings and loan schemes to enable them to pay their fees.

It requires courage on the part of both universities and politicians to journey down this path. The LSE should be congratulated on taking this decision and acting as a catalyst for change.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD LUCE,
Vice-Chancellor,
The University of Buckingham,
Buckingham MK18 1EG,
December 16.

CPS and the disclosure of evidence

From Mr Christopher
Wilson-Smith, QC

Sir, The legal profession will have read with grave disquiet the proposal that the Crown Prosecution Service and the police will determine the circumstances in which unused material is disclosed to the defence (report, December 11).

Experience has shown that the CPS or the police seldom give adequate attention to unused material, while it is normal for the defence to review this material with care. It is surprising how often evidence of crucial importance to the defence is discovered in this material.

The profession will have no confidence in a system where the defence are dependent on the Crown or the police to determine what they should see and what they consider relevant. It is pre-

cisely this situation which has led to serious miscarriages of justice. Objectivity is what is required — a quality for which the prosecuting authorities have not always been renowned.

These proposals appear to be a unilateral and fundamental change of policy. I suspect that the courts would be very concerned if there were to be such a far-reaching change in what is now accepted practice; and it will place an intolerable burden on those who prosecute at the Bar.

Surely, it is still an important principle that justice must be seen to be done. What Barbara Mills, QC, contemplates will do nothing to enhance this maxim.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER WILSON-SMITH,
35 Essex Street, Temple, WC2,
December 12.

Role of Croatia

From the Ambassador of
the Republic of Croatia

Sir, I express my deepest astonishment at your leading article of November 29, "The egg revolution", in which you attempted to equate the policies and roles of the Croatian President, Dr Franjo Tudjman, with those of the Serbian President, Slobodan Milosevic. Such a thesis is totally unfounded and misplaced.

President Tudjman was among the first to offer a political solution to the so-called Yugoslav crisis. Croatia was first to recognise the independence of successor states to former Yugoslavia, including Bosnia-Herzegovina. Under the determined leadership of President Tudjman, Croatia played a decisive role in changing the balance of power in the region last year, thus reversing a major part of the earlier gains of Greater Serbian expansionism and creating the strategic conditions that finally led to the conclusion of the Dayton peace agreement. The

full implementation of that agreement is one of Croatia's national goals.

President Tudjman's commitment to co-operate fully with the international community contributed decisively in establishing Croatia as a stable and potentially prosperous country based on democratic pluralism and free market economy.

Unlike Serbia, Croatia is a member of all the major international organisations — including the United Nations, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Council of Europe, the International Monetary Fund and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development — and the international banking community regards Croatia now as a highly desirable partner.

Your attempt to artificially equate Croatia and Serbia, and their leaders, can serve no constructive purpose.

Yours faithfully,
ANTE CIGJIN-SAJIN,
Embassy of the Republic of Croatia,
21 Conway Street, W1,
December 18.

Jams tomorrow

From Professor Emeritus
Anthony Ralston

Sir, Richard Botwood is quite right to stress the need for more investment in public transport systems in London (letter, December 14; see also letters November 20, 21 and December 4). He is also correct that investment alone will not be enough to solve the fast-approaching traffic gridlock in London and that there is a need to "initiate a city-wide strategy which includes sticks as well as carrots".

There is only one "stick" that has much chance of working. This is road pricing. Drivers wishing to enter London during peak traffic times must pay for that privilege and those living in London must also pay for driving during peak periods. Until recently such a policy would have been technically infeasible but the technology now exists.

While implementing road pricing would be expensive, the cost would be rapidly recovered by the charges. Additionally such charges could provide a source of revenue for upgrading public transport.

Undoubtedly road pricing would be unpopular with many, but it does stand a fair chance of ameliorating, if not solving, London's traffic problems. The chief impediment is neither fiscal nor technological, but rather an absence of political will to propose such a policy and to carry through its introduction.

Sincerely,
ANTHONY RALSTON,
Flat 4, Albert Court,
58 Prince Consort Road, SW7,
December 15.

Royal succession

From Mrs Sylvia Disley

Sir, On the question of equal rights of succession to the throne, Nigel Miskin (letter, December 17) asks: "Is it not rather arrogant for us to presume to dictate to future generations in this way?"

By that token, has not this country always been labouring under an arrogant presumption that only male heirs can succeed?

Mr Miskin questions changing the present order of succession so that the Princess Royal would be raised above the Duke of York, his little daughters and Prince Edward. Why not? Personally, I think that our popular and hard-working Princess Royal would make an excellent monarch. We could do worse.

Yours faithfully,
SYLVIA DISLEY,
Hampton House,
Upper Sunbury Road,
Hampton, Middlesex,
December 17.

From the Dean and Tutor in Ancient
History, Merton College, Oxford

Sir, Had Lord Archer's proposed rules for the royal succession been in force at the time, Kaiser Wilhelm II would have succeeded to the British throne on August 5, 1901.

Yours faithfully,
THOMAS BRAUN,
Merton College, Oxford,
December 17.

Just solution to 'litigation lunacy'

From Mr D. E. Downs

Sir, The sentiments expressed by Simon Jenkins on December 14, lamenting the culture of litigation, compensation and punitive damages which threatens to "poison the courtesies and disciplines that hold citizens together", will surely be echoed by many.

If punitive damages, when awarded, were paid into a charitable trust then honour would be satisfied, the person or body doing the wrong punished and the victim would have his redress without financial reward, when there was no financial loss. Such a trust could be administered by the Charles Aid Foundation and, when considering distribution, the wishes of the plaintiff could be considered.

With no possibility of direct financial reward there would be less frivolous cases brought to court and the simple apology for a wrong-doing might again become acceptable.

Yours faithfully,
D. E. DOWNS,
21 Princes Gardens,
Cliftonville, Margate, Kent,
December 15.

From Mr Nigel Douglas

Sir, Simon Jenkins's article about litigation lunacy made ironical reading in such close juxtaposition to the obituary of Group Captain W. G. C. Duncan-Smith.

On the one hand a man who is awarded £220,000 for being put in an armlock during his arrest by police; on the other, a man who was "badly bruised from bouncing off his aircraft wingtip" when shot down and forced to bale out, after which he "plunged into a polluted patch of sea ingesting a good deal of oil" before being rescued, yet discharged himself from hospital the following day in order to carry on the battle.

Whom should he have sued? Churchill? Hitler? And for how much?

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL DOUGLAS,
Eythorne House,
Eythorne, Dover, Kent,
December 14.

From Dr C. T. Morley

Sir, If punitive damages were paid not to the plaintiff but to the State they would vanish overnight.

Yours,
C. T. MORLEY,
Trinity College, Cambridge,
December 14.

The brew that cheers

From Mr Adrian Brodtkin

Sir, I read that researchers at Hull University have discovered that, of two groups of people asked to watch a comedy film, those who were given two bottles of strong lager laughed more than those who drank an alcohol-free brew — thereby increasing their chances of a long and happy life (report, later editions, December 17).

Leaving aside the fact that drinking alcohol-free beer or lager is hardly ever a laughing matter, this is not a startling conclusion. Indeed I laughed so long and hard at this fatuous finding that I am now in a state of perfect health and looking forward with keen anticipation to the forthcoming festivities.

Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN BRODKIN,
93 Kingsley Way, N2,
December 17.

Aria on a shoestring

From Mrs Janette Lloyd

Sir, It may delight Rodney Milnes, fresh from the "conspicuous consumption" of La Scala ("No expense spared, unapologetically", Arts, December 12), to hear of a performance of Gluck's *Armide* in Oxford in 1970.

The University Opera Club, of which I was a member of the chorus, staged the whole thing for £25, the set being composed of Bacoloff.

We, as nymphs, wore dyed sheets, and were told not to approach the front of the stage lest any observant critics should be appalled at our budget clothing.

As a performer, I was not in a position to judge whether the "sparse, tense sound-world" Gluck aimed for was enhanced by the poverty of the set. But when I say that the Messenger was none other than the wine expert, Oz Clarke, and that soprano Emma Kirkby was First Nymph, hindsight suggests we got something right.

Yours sincerely,
JANETTE LLOYD,
6 Oliver's Battery Gardens,
Winchester, Hampshire,
December 13.

Bread on the waters?

From the Reverend Dr Peter Whale

Sir, In these days of moral confusion, what hope do our young people have when the largest branch of Dillons in Birmingham sells cards inscribed "to the one I love" in packets of five?

Yours sincerely,
P. R. WHALE,
83 Chaddeley Court,
Nod Rise, Coventry, Warwickshire,
December 19.

JP 11-150



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE December 19: Commander Richard Aylard RN was received by the Queen upon relinquishing his appointment as Private Secretary and Treasurer to the Prince of Wales. Mr John Doyle (President, Royal Watercolour Society) was received by the Queen and presented a book containing a collection of sketches to mark Her Majesty's Seventieth Birthday.

The Rt Hon Antony Newton MP had a audience of Her Majesty before the Council. The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron, Order of St Eulachia, today attended a Luncheon at the Deanery, Ely Cathedral, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire (Mr James Crowden).

BUCKINGHAM PALACE December 19: The Duke of York this afternoon left Hong Kong for the Philippines. His Royal Highness was received on arrival at Manila Airport by Her Majesty's Ambassador (His Excellency Mr Adrian Thorpe).

Polar Medals

The Queen has been pleased to approve the following awards for outstanding achievement and service to British Polar Research: Antarctic 1992-04: Nigel Brian Dean, diesel mechanic; Steven Thomas Dow, plumber and winter base commander.

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Kent, as Chancellor of Surrey University, will preside at the conferment of degrees ceremony in Guildford Cathedral at 10.00.

Lord-Lieutenant

Sir Paul Nicholson is to be Lord-Lieutenant for the county of Durham in succession to Mr David Grant who will be retiring on January 18, 1997.

John Langeloth Loeb

A memorial service for John Langeloth Loeb will be held on Thursday, January 16, 1997 at 11am at Temple Emanuel-El, Fifth Avenue and 68th Street, New York.

Legal appointment

Mrs Sarah Anne Williams to be a full-time chairman of Social Security, Medical, Disability and Child Support Appeal Tribunals from January 20 1997.

London University

Professor David Cannadine, Moore Collegiate Professor, History at Columbia University, New York, to be Director of the Institute of Historical Research from May 1, 1998.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr C.T.M. Ind and Lady Iona Hay The engagement is announced between Charles, eldest son of Dr and Mrs John Ind, of Chelsea, London and Iona Charlotte, second daughter of the Earl and Countess of Kinross, of Abernethy, Perthshire.

Mr N.J. Hodson and Miss M.L.L. Smulders The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Mr and Mrs Denis Hodson, of Fairfield, Gloucestershire, and Mary-Lou, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Smulders, of Thousand Oaks, California.

Mr P. J. Pease and Miss K.E. Walsh The engagement is announced between Peter, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Svend Jensen, of Highgate, London and Katherine, only daughter of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs John Walsh, of Belfast.

Mr J.R.M. Peter and Miss M. Walsh The engagement is announced between John, younger son of Mr and Mrs Michael Peter, of Broxbourne, Hertfordshire, and Mary, daughter of Mr and Mrs Patrick Walsh, of Norwood, London.

Mr A.G. Proctor and Miss C.E. Blake The engagement is announced between Andrew, second son of Mr and Mrs Hugh Proctor, of Ripley, Surrey, and Courtney, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Victor Blake, of Cobham, Surrey.

Mr A.D.J. Prichard and Miss S.C.M. Prichard The engagement is announced between Adam, younger son of Mr David Ramsey, of Petersfield, and the late Mrs Jane Ramsey, and Suzanne, younger daughter of Dr and Mrs Charles Prichard, of West Ashling, Chichester, West Sussex.

Mr N.M. Turner and Miss L.L. Smart The engagement is announced between Nicolas, elder son of Mr and Mrs P.J. Turner, of Wargrave, Berkshire, and Louise, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs J.M.R. Smart, of Purley, Surrey.

Mr R.D.A. Wandle and Miss C.E. Knight The engagement is announced between Roy, son of Professor and Mrs A.H. Wandle, of Cambridge, and Catherine, daughter of Mr and Mrs R.D.V. Knight, of St John's Wood, London.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: John Wilson Croker, politician and writer, Galway, 1783; Sir Robert Menzies, Prime Minister of Australia 1939-71 and 1949-66, Jeparit, Victoria, 1894; George, Duke of Kent, Sandringham House, Norfolk, 1902.

DEATHS: Ambrose Park, surgeon, Paris, 1900; Erich von Luedendorff, German First World War general, Munich, 1937; James Hill, novelist, Long Beach, California, 1954; John Sturbeck, novelist, Nobel laureate 1962, New York, 1968; Admiral Luis Carrero Blanco, Prime Minister of Spain 1973, assassinated, Madrid, 1973; Bobby Darin, singer, songwriter and actor, Hollywood, 1973; Arthur Rubinstein, pianist, Geneva, 1982.

The First General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, 1601. Louis Napoleon Bonaparte was proclaimed President of France, 1848.



A FLAMBOYANT costume for the celebrated Ballet Russes production of Scheherazade doubled its estimate to sell for £49,400 in a sale devoted to Russian art at Sotheby's in London yesterday (John Shaw writes).

The costume for Jane Marnac as Zobeide was sensational for the time. She wore a revealing embroidered gossamer top and a pair of pantaloons split to the thigh. An imposing turban decorated with a large pink feather completed the design, which was bought privately.

It was one of several exotic costumes designed by Lev Bakst (1866-1924) for Diaghilev's famous company which revolutionised ballet at the turn of the century. His design for

Luncheons

London Chamber of Commerce Mr Sebastian Coe, MP, was the guest speaker at the Christmas luncheon of the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry held yesterday at the Savoy Hotel in aid of the Cancer Research Campaign.

Sir Brian Jenkins, president, was the host. National Sporting Club Mr Dermot Reeve was the guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon of the National Sporting Club held yesterday at the Café Royal. Mr David Willis presided.

Birthdays today

Mr Bill Abbott, former Governor, Pentonville prison, 55; Miss Jenny Agutter, actress, 44; Mr Michael Beaumont, Seigneur of Sark, 69; Lord Brabazon of Tara, 50; Mr Simon Channing, former chairman, London Philharmonic, 36; Sir George Coldstream, QC, 89; Mr Malcolm Cooper, marksman, 49; Mr Peter Cundell, racehorse trainer, 48; Mr Charles Denton, television and film producer, 59; Mr D.F. Gardner, chairman, Brixton Estate, 53; the Earl of Harrowby, 74; Mrs Ros Hepplewhite, former chief executive, Child Support

Agency, 44; Lord Howe of Aberavon, CH, QC, 70; Mr Justice Lightman, 57; Baroness Thomas of Walliswood, 61; Miss Rachel Trickett, former Principal, St Hugh's College, Oxford, 73; Mr Karl Wendlinger, racing driver, 28; Mr John Whitney, former director-general, IBA, 66; Mr John Wilkins, Editor, The Tablet, 60.

Appointments Baroness Smith of Glimorchill, Baroness Nigel Jones MP and Mr Christopher King to be members of the governing body of the British Association for Central and Eastern Europe.

Memorial service

Mr Geoff Hamilton

A service and celebration for the life and skills of Mr Geoff Hamilton, BBC gardening journalist, was held yesterday at St John's Wood Church. The Rev John Slater officiated and Miss Gay Search read the lesson.

Mr Alan Titchmarsh, read Dunston Hill by Hilare Belloc, Mr John Suddart, Principal of Sheffield Hallam University, read The Road of Life part of The Earthly Paradise by William Morris, Mr Adam Pisco, Editor of Gardeners World, read from Florence Nightingale's Letter to Condyngton and Mr Will Wyatt, Chief Executive, Broadcast, BBC, read from Geoff Hamilton's preface to Living Garden. Mr Tony Hamilton, twin brother, gave an address.

Mr Geoff Amos, Mr and Mrs Anthony Andrews, Mr and Mrs Ian Bell, Mr John Bird, Mr David Border, Mr Neil Bragg, Mrs Sue Bragg, Mrs Anne Swinburn, Alan Titchmarsh, Mr and Mrs Connie Throver, Dr Stefan Buzacsi, Mrs Elizabeth Cury Hunt, Mrs Glynis Jones, Ms Sue Dainton-Jel, Mr and Mrs Gerry Devson, Mr Howard Drury, Mr Jim Durnham, Mr and Mrs James Ebdon, Mr Barry Edgar, Mr Charles Ellis, Mr Catherine Fennell, Mr and Mrs John Ferry, Mr Bob Flowerdew, Mrs Sue Hill, Mr Adam Frost, Ms Sarah Greene, Ms Philipp Greenwood, Mr

Jeremy Clarkson, Mr John Guinness, Mr and Mrs Dan Howland, Ms Belinda Innes, Ms Annabel Truitt, Mr John Kenyon, Mr John Kendall, Ms Maria Kirby, Mrs P. Kishall, Mr John King, Mr Michael Losmore, Ms Jan Laughton, Mr Roy Lancaster, Ms M. Joyce, Mr John Kelly, Ms S. Keshava, Mr T.M. Maitland, Dr G. McCormack, Mr Keith McMorran, Dr Jerry Moran, Mr Ken Page, Mr Richard Penfold, Mr and Mrs Peter Peskett, Mr Clay Perry, Ms Liz Rigby, Mr and Mrs Peter Rye, Mr Ron Sowton, Mr Frank Phillips, Mr David Rye, Mr John Lorraine Stone, Mr Alan Smith, Ms Judith Pell, Mr and Mrs Ian Spence, Professor and Mrs David Stevens, Ms Stephanie Suk, Ms Gillian Thomson, Mr Laurence Villanay, Professor Michael Alder (Wright College of Agriculture), Miss Margaret Waddy (vice-chairman, Institute of Horticulture) also representing the chairman of the Eastern Horticultural Society (Friends of the Earth), Mr D. Allen (Horticulture Trade Association), Mr Claron Amos (Ms Miranda Innes (Country Living Magazine), Ms Rosie Innes (Gardens Illustrated), Ms Diana Buchanan (The Sunday Telegraph), Mr Ian Melrose (The Evening Express), Mr Jeremy Lewis (Northampton Evening Post), Mr Paul Cannon (Countrywide), Mr G. G. (Countrywide), Mr Chandler (CPRE) and Mr Chandler.

Mr John James Woodlands Trust, Mr Fred Downham, Ms Diana Bennett, Ms Sally Hill and Ms Daphne Leaward (Classic Gardening Forum), Mr David Andrew (The Garden), Mrs Susan Austin, Mr Derek Cox (Gosport Nurseries), Mr Robert Hillier and Mr John Hillier (Hillier Nurseries), Mr and Mrs John Hillier & Sons Nurseries, Ms Jane Walker, Mr Peter Hills, Miss Lisa Howard, Ms Anita Morton, Ms Nicola Lowe, Mr Edward Wallis, Mr David Corrie, Mrs David Hamilton (Corrie), Mrs Victoria Hamilton, Mr and Mrs William Hamilton, Mr and Mrs Gordon, Mr and Mrs John Macdonald, Mr and Mrs John Walker, Mr Peter Hills, Miss Lisa Howard, Ms Anita Morton, Ms Nicola Lowe, Mr Edward Wallis, Mr David Corrie, Mrs David Hamilton (Corrie), Mrs Victoria Hamilton, Mr and Mrs William Hamilton, Mr and Mrs Gordon, Mr and Mrs John Macdonald, Mr and Mrs John Walker, Mr Peter Hills, Miss Lisa Howard, Ms Anita Morton, Ms Nicola Lowe, Mr Edward Wallis, Mr David Corrie, Mrs David Hamilton (Corrie), Mrs Victoria Hamilton, Mr and Mrs 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OBITUARIES

MARCELLO MASTROIANNI

Marcello Mastroianni, Italian film star, died in Paris yesterday aged 72. He was born on September 28, 1924.

The career in films of the greatest of all Italian male stars lasted for almost fifty years, although it was not until he played the wry, worshipping gossip writer around whom Fellini's La Dolce Vita (1960) whirled that he became internationally celebrated.

Marcello Mastroianni was born in Fontana Liri, a country village near Frosinone, to the southeast of Rome. His father was a cabinet maker who, when the boy was five, migrated to Turin, moving on from there a few years later to Rome.

As a youth, when the war started Mastroianni was studying surveying and draughtsmanship. His ambitions to become an architect were dashed at 19 when the German occupiers sent him to a forced labour camp in the north of Italy. He managed to escape, and hid out for the duration in Venice, where he would draw pictures of its landmarks to sell for food.

When the war ended, he obtained a job in Rome with the accounts department of Eagle-Lion, a British film company that was a subsidiary of the Rank Organisation. In the evenings he began acting with 'diversity students,' one of whom was Giulietta Masina, who was then already the wife of Federico Fellini.

His modest film debut was made in 1947, with a small part in one of the innumerable cinema versions of Victor Hugo's Les Misérables, in this instance directed by Riccardo Freda, with Gino Cervi and Valentina Cortese in the leads.

In the following year he was offered a role in Luchino Visconti's stage production of As You Like It, which led to parts in other plays performed by his company.

Mastroianni's film career took off in 1949 with leading roles in films opposite Milly Vitale, Lilianna Mancini and Gina Lollobrigida. For the next few years he was a young and handsome presence in a stream of Italian films that only occasionally were shown outside the domestic market.

This gave him the experience of working with actors such as Paola Stoppa, Raf Vallone and, significantly, the precocious matinee idol Vittorio De Sica. The latter became a powerful force in post-war Italian cinema and played Sophia Loren's father in Peccato che sia uno Canaglia (1953), the first film on which Mastroianni worked with either of them. Visconti then signed Mastroianni to play the indigent young man who loves the mysterious Maria Schell in White Nights (1957), helping him towards his recognition outside Italy.

It was Fellini's La Dolce Vita, a three-hour study of the decadent wasters of the Via Veneto smart set, that propelled Mastroianni to international stardom. Fellini declared that he had hired him because he had "a terribly ordinary face," but it was his face that gave him his appeal, with its wistful expression that managed to be simultaneously passive and quizzical.

The box-office success ensured that he was now in huge demand; with the cream of leading ladies at his disposal: Claudia Cardinale in Il Bell'Antonio (1960); Simone Signoret in Adua e le Compagne (1960); Jeanne Moreau in Visconti's La Notte (1961). In Divorce Italian Style (1962) he received an Oscar nomination as a down-at-heel count who tries to murder his wife. An impressive hit, it was followed by Louis Malle's Vie



Privés (1962) with Brigitte Bardot.

In 1963 he was the lead in Fellini's 8½, playing an egocentric film director and ringmaster based on Fellini himself. Carlo Ponti then took a hand in Mastroianni's career and more international success followed with the delightful commercial comedies Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow and Marriage Italian-

Style (both 1964) which were directed by Vittorio De Sica, with Ponti's wife, Sophia Loren as co-star. Mastroianni was in Visconti's Carnus adaptation The Stranger (1967) and was under pressure to make an English-speaking film, although he was reluctant to go to Hollywood.

The unremarkable comedy Diamonds for Breakfast (1968) was made in England, and

was followed by a sickly love story with Faye Dunaway, A Place Far Lower (1969), a failure for Vittorio De Sica. John Boorman's London Film Leo the Last (1970) was more successful with audiences.

Mastroianni's command of English was then extremely shaky and he was obliged to recite his lines phonetically, giving his normally relaxed

ARTHUR JACOBS

Arthur Jacobs, music critic, died on December 13 aged 74. He was born on June 14, 1922.

ARTHUR JACOBS was a prolific music critic whose energies embraced journalism, lecturing, teaching, editing, biography and a series of highly regarded singing translations of operas.

Born in Manchester, he was educated at Manchester Grammar School and Merton College, Oxford. He began his career as music critic on the Daily Express in 1947, moving on to write for a wide variety of newspapers and journals, including The Sunday Times, The Sunday Telegraph, the Financial Times and the Jewish Chronicle, always in the brisk, clear style that was to characterise his work.

He was deputy editor of Opera magazine from 1961 to 1971, remaining a board member and a valued contributor until his death. From 1964 to 1979 he taught criticism and history at the Royal Academy of Music, before becoming Head of Music at Huddersfield Polytechnic until 1984 (when he was appointed Professor). He also found time to travel widely, acting as a visiting professor in various American, Canadian and Australian universities; latterly, he was several times a visiting fellow of Wolfson College, Oxford.

Jacobs's precision of mind made him a sound lexicographer, and his Penguin New Dictionary of Music (1988) went into several editions and translations. He also founded the invaluable British Music Yearbook in 1971, editing it until 1979. Other publications included The Pan Book of Opera (with Stanley Sadie, 1964), A Short History of Western Music (1972), The Pan Book of Orchestral Music (1987), and The Penguin Dictionary of Musical Performers (1990).

At the centre of his scholarly interests was English music, and he helped to deepen serious appreciation of A. S. Sullivan with Gilbert and Sullivan (1951) and with a meticulous biography, Arthur Sullivan: a Victorian Mus-

cian (1984). His last biography was a no less scrupulous study, Sir Henry Wood: Maker of the Proms (1994), in which his thorough research and keen probing enabled him to shed considerable new light on his subject.

Jacobs's devotion to opera found practical expression in the many performing translations he made. His linguistic gifts gave him an appreciation of the flavour of texts in languages that included Russian, and his sometimes quirky relish of word-play



could produce ingenious and witty singing versions, with much theatrical point, of operas by Monteverdi, Rossini, Berlioz, Tchaikovsky and Berg, among others. An original libretto was One Man Show for Nicholas Maw (1964).

His advocacy of opera in English, as representing a genuine dramatic experience for audiences who might otherwise have been kept at a distance, was characteristically vigorous. This sharpness and forcefulness of mind could also take expression in sharpness of tongue, though invariably in what he saw as the interests of accuracy and proper standards of professional conduct; and it could quickly be belied by warmth and a lively sense of humour.

He retired to Oxford, where he took pleasure in renewing membership of his old undergraduate college, Merton. He married, in 1953, Betty Hughes; she and their two sons survive him.

YULI KHARITON

Yuli Khariton, Soviet nuclear physicist, died yesterday aged 92. He was born on February 27, 1904.

BORN in Tzarist Russia, Yuri Khariton lived to see the parabola of Soviet power, his greatest personal success coinciding with its apogee. When

the first Soviet atom bomb was detonated in August 1949, Stalin's police chief Lavrenti Beria turned in joy to Khariton and Igor Kurchatov, two of its principal architects, and kissed them both on the forehead. Later Khariton contributed hugely to the success of the Soviet hydrogen bomb, though by then Beria — "a

terrible man but an excellent organiser" — was no longer around to reward him. Khariton ended his life as he had spent the past 45 years, in charge of the Arzamas-16 research laboratory near Nizhny Novgorod.

Yuli Borisovich Khariton was born into a Jewish family, the youngest son of a St Petersburg

journalist and an actress in the Moscow Arts Theatre. "Compact, acerbically slight, and very sprightly," as a friend described him, he graduated from the Polytechnic Institute of Leningrad, as St Petersburg had become, in 1925, worked briefly on chemical chain reactions with Nicolai Semenov at "Fizteh"

— the Institute of Physics and Technology in Leningrad — before travelling to Cambridge. This was the period when Soviet scientists were allowed abroad, and Khariton took advantage of the liberal climate to study under Ernest Rutherford. He was awarded his PhD in theoretical physics at the Cavendish Laboratory in 1927.

Returning to the Soviet Union through Germany, Khariton was disturbed by the stirrings of Fascism, and at the age of 24 was placed in charge of an explosives laboratory at the Institute of Physical Chemistry, a Fizteh spin-off. When the first reports of the discovery of nuclear fission reached the Soviet Union in 1939, Khariton and a younger colleague, Yakov Zeldovich, began working on it. It was not part of their institute's task, so they studied in the evenings. "We immediately made calculations of nuclear chain reactions," Khariton later remembered, "and we soon understood that, on paper at least, a chain reaction was possible, a reaction which could release unlimited amounts of energy without burning coal or oil. Then we took it very seriously. We also understood that a bomb was possible."

Serious Soviet efforts to build a bomb began in 1942, after the first reports of Allied efforts had filtered through. Kurchatov was put in charge, initially at a research laboratory in Moscow, and later at Arzamas-16, the secret weapons design laboratory 200 miles to the east. But only on August 20, 1945, after the



devastation of Hiroshima, did Stalin realise the global implications of nuclear fission. He gave the project high priority, putting Beria in control. Then came a lucky break. The atom spy Klaus Fuchs provided descriptions of the American A-bomb. "The information was very helpful but also very difficult," Khariton said in 1993. "We had sketches, but we did not have all the calculations." The experiments done at Los Alamos had to be repeated, to make sure that Fuchs's material was genuine.

After fierce arguments, the team abandoned its own design and copied the American one, a decision Khariton supported. Work was shifted to a small town, Sarov, where August 20, 1945, after the

team was appointed scientific director, and arrived on April 2, 1946, preceded by a detachment of secret policemen who had already stalked out a stretch of forest with barbed wire. The town vanished from the maps, becoming the centre of the USSR's nuclear archipelago.

When the moment came to test the first device, Khariton was nervous. "If our first test had failed, you can imagine the pleasures that would have awaited us," he said. The test, however, was a complete success, sending shudders of horror through the West. Khariton then said: "Do you need him very much?" Yes, replied Khariton. Beria pushed again, then said "All right," and the incident was closed. Khariton's wife and daughter predeceased him.

design was exploded, equally successfully. It was only half as big, but had twice the yield.

The USSR was second to the atom bomb, but had caught up by the time of the first H-bomb tests. The first Soviet paper on the subject was written by Khariton and colleagues in 1946, but was brushed aside by Stalin and Beria, intent on their atom bomb. By 1949 the mood had changed and Yuri Sakharov was dispatched to Sarov to work with Khariton on an H-bomb design. This was Sakharov's "layer cake" design, involving alternating layers of uranium-238 and deuterium. Khariton was responsible for planning and organising the research needed to prove it would work. When it was successfully tested in October 1953, the USSR could legitimately claim to have the first practical thermonuclear weapon. The first US device, tested a year earlier, had been impractically large.

Khariton was deeply proud of the achievements of the team under his control, and as an old man could recite them all. His eminence as a scientist and research director largely protected him from Beria's interference, though once he had to intervene on behalf of a colleague, Lev Altshtuler, who was threatened with exile. Khariton called Beria and said that Altshtuler was too valuable to lose. Beria paused, then said: "Do you need him very much?" Yes, replied Khariton. Beria pushed again, then said "All right," and the incident was closed. Khariton's wife and daughter predeceased him.

PERSONAL COLUMN

LEGAL NOTICES

NO. 608625 of 1996 IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE... CHANCERY DIVISION... COMPANIES COURT... IN RE THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985...

NO. 608626 of 1996 IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE... CHANCERY DIVISION... COMPANIES COURT... IN RE THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985...

NO. 608627 of 1996 IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE... CHANCERY DIVISION... COMPANIES COURT... IN RE THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985...

NO. 608628 of 1996 IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE... CHANCERY DIVISION... COMPANIES COURT... IN RE THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985...

PUBLIC NOTICES

REBEKA JAMES RITCHIE LOVEMAN, CATHERINE MARY REBEKA LOVEMAN... REBEKA JAMES RITCHIE LOVEMAN, CATHERINE MARY REBEKA LOVEMAN...

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THE DEATH OF KING LEOPOLD. THE BODY TRANSFERRED TO BRUSSELS. BRUSSELS, DEC. 18. The body of the late King Leopold II of Belgium was transferred from the Palace at Brussels this evening by the light of torches carried by mounted troopers of a regiment of Guides.

ON THIS DAY December 20, 1909. The present appalling state of affairs in what was formerly the Belgian Congo has its roots in the actions of King Leopold II of Belgium (1835-1909) who not only plundered and misruled a rich territory but mistreated the native population.

A SOCIALIST MANIFESTO. BRUSSELS, DEC. 19. The General Council of the Belgian Labour Party issued this morning a proclamation containing the following passages: Under the reign which has now ended the old conception of a bourgeois monarchy was profoundly changed. Twenty or thirty years ago the King was a mere symbol. With Leopold II the King became the great organiser of the political contest waged by capitalism against the working class.

THE KING'S WILL. King Leopold, in his will, declares that he possesses nothing beyond the 15,000,000 francs which he leaves to his children. He refuses to allow an autopsy. "Apart from my nephew, Prince Albert," he says, "and the members of my household, I forbid any one to attend my funeral. My papers will be destroyed or handed to Prince Albert." Baron Goffinet is appointed executor.

NEWS

SAS team arrives at Lima siege

An SAS team arrived in Lima to join American security experts as the 484 hostages inside the Japanese ambassador's residence settled down for a third night with their 30 heavily armed Tupac Amaru captors.

The team of six from Hereford includes explosives experts and a sniper team commander. Hostage negotiators from Scotland Yard also flew in as talks between the Peruvian Government and the rebels moved slowly.

Murder hunt police given more time

Magistrates granted police more time to question Robert Friar, a 35-year-old unemployed man who was arrested on Wednesday for questioning over the murders of Lin Russell and her daughter Megan as they walked home from Goodnestone Primary School in Kent.

Duke apologises

The Duke of Edinburgh apologised for criticising government plans to ban handguns, saying he had no intention of causing offence or distress and was sorry if he had done so.

Free speech ruling

Two murderers won a High Court victory when a judge ruled that jail restrictions on their access to visiting journalists were unlawful and curbed their right to free speech.

Rape ignored

Residents of Chislehurst, south-east London, said they were astonished that rush-hour motorists did not stop to rescue a woman civil servant who was raped and beaten on a busy street.

Mastroianni dies

Marcello Mastroianni, the Italian film star, died in Paris from pancreatic cancer, aged 72. His many known mistresses included Catherine Deneuve, who was at his bedside.

Oxbridge victory

Oxford and Cambridge both claimed victory in the four-yearly university research ratings, which will influence the distribution of £700 million of government money.

BB on racism charge

Brigitte Bardot was in court over claims that a newspaper article in which she said France was being overrun by sheep-slaughtering Muslims was an incitement to racial hatred.

Dying breath

The BBC is considering filming the last moments of a dying man or woman for a series charting human life from the cradle to the grave.

Gas pipeline plans

President Rafsanjari of Iran was greeted with full military honours when he arrived in Turkey for talks about a gas pipeline the two countries are to build.

Appeal to Mandela

The father of a 28-year-old Briton killed by a traffic police officer in a KwaZulu/Natal coastal resort has written to President Mandela to ask for justice.

Simple spymen

An American who spied for Moscow was arrested but nowadays spies are less interested in national security secrets than in the enemy's tradecraft.

Footballer's damages

A former Stockport County footballer was awarded an estimated £250,000 damages in the High Court over a high tackle which ended his career.

Barble campaign

The Dynamic factory in Thailand, where Barbie dolls are made, is the target of an international campaign to get fairer conditions for workers.

China's last imperial eunuch dies

Sun Yaoting, China's last surviving imperial eunuch, has died in a Buddhist temple in Peking where he lived out the final years of a life of discrimination and repression. He was 94 and served Pu Yi, China's last emperor, and his first wife after being born into a poor family, castrated at the age of eight and sent to the Forbidden City.



Mother Teresa, 86, leaving hospital in Calcutta yesterday after a heart operation and a month in intensive care. Page 13

BUSINESS

Merger bill: Halifax Building Society faces costs of £413 million for merging with the Leeds and floating on the stock market, or £46 for each borrower and saver.

Cricket: Zimbabwe extended their first innings to 376 in the first Test in Bulawayo and then reduced England to 48 for the loss of Michael Atherton's wicket before rain stopped play.

Heritage plea: Instead of turning it into more offices, why not open up Admiralty Arch and the history it embodies to the public.

Secret India: Quentin Letts on the castrati of India - the hidden community that harks back to the days of the harem.

Collapse: Dunn & Co, the menswear retailer specialising in hats and tweed, has collapsed for the second time in six years.

Football: Frank Clark resigned as manager of Nottingham Forest, who have gone 16 games without victory and are bottom of the FA Carling Premiership.

British best: The Royal Ballet presents a stylish revival of Frederick Ashton's Cinderella that knocks spots off the Kirov's Nutcracker down the road.

Stage doctor: If he had completed his PhD thesis and become Dr John Sessions, perhaps he would not feel compelled to display his erudition; but then he would have been lost to the stage.

Damages: GKN, the engineering and defence group, faces a damages bill of about \$400 million after an American exhaust subsidiary lost a class action suit.

Rugby union: Cardiff will have to play their Heineken Cup semi-final against Brive without significant match practice if the referees' strike in Wales continues.

Going strong: She may be 57, but Tina Turner defies the passing years with a high-voltage show at Wembley Arena.

Toy story: Parents in American toy stores are fighting over furry dolls which, when touched, squirm and emit funny noises.

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index rose 27.5 points to close at 4045.7. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 94.4 to 94.1 after a fall from \$1.6725 to \$1.6630 and from DM2.5999 to DM2.5938.

Sailing: The BT Global Challenge fleet suffered its first serious rig failure when Concert fell off a wave and lost her mast from about 20ft above the deck.

Research leaders: A Times guide to Britain's top universities for research.

The Middle East is once again poised on the edge of an abyss. It has been obvious for months that Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu was not merely slowing the peace process down but strangling it altogether.



IN THE TIMES

MAGAZINE Debbie Reynolds (left), Elvis Presley and Peggy Lee in the top 100 easy listening hits

WEEKEND Where early birds get the best bargains: a nationwide guide to the January sales

Preview: There are Christmas ructions at Arden House. Dr Finlay (ITV, 9pm). Review: Matthew Bond on a Deillah disaster movie. Page 39

Speak, memory

This week Tony Blair took the trip down memory lane that John Major, Bill Clinton and Ronald Reagan have followed before him. The trip was not an unalloyed success. Page 17

Dons and data

Even dons in the most ancient of universities will concede, through gritted teeth, that outside pressure has forced them to develop research strategies and deal with those staff members whose output has been inexorably low or persistently poor. Page 17

Everest of the spirit

Sir Ranulph Fiennes had to give up his latest quest to trek alone across Antarctica, yet the disappointed explorer's failure has something heroic about it. Page 17

ROGER SCRUTON

Do you remember the glorious days of Soviet communism, when each seat in the Soviet was contested by two candidates, both chosen by the Party? This is how the projected new bridge across the Thames was chosen. Page 16

PHILIP HOWARD

The Speaker of Question Times Past was a handsome woman dressed in buckles and bows. She smiled at Stogie in a lofty but not unfriendly way. And as he grasped her tunic, they seemed to be whisked in an instant high up into the highest gallery of the debating chamber. He knew so well, and where he continually strove to lead his party when he was not following it. Page 16

Marcello Mastroianni, Italian film star; Yuli Khariton, Soviet nuclear physicist; Arthur Jacobs, music critic. Page 19

Duke's views on gun legislation; university funding; the culture of litigation; CPS proposal on disclosures to the defence; Croatia and Bosnia; royal succession; road pricing. Page 17

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,356

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers indicating starting positions for words.

- ACROSS
1 A bit of dissipation in the courtyard (5).
4 Reform involving double degree in one's university (4,5).
9 He provides clothing that's striking and more appropriate (9).
10 Dark horse ousting leader (5).
11 Though real crime is deplorable it can produce great mirth (7,8).
12 Civilized old city destroyed by plague (6).
14 Water tortoise secure on land (8).
17 Tiny page disguised as Arab (8).
19 Feast the king found less colourful (6).
22 A girl usually expects to have such a hurried ceremony (7,8).
24 Musical group's love note produced in court (5).
25 Order this tape containing German or Italian course (9).

A word search puzzle titled 'BREAK THE BANK' with a grid of letters and words to find.

Weather and forecast information including 'Latest Road and Weather conditions', 'Weather by Fax', 'World City Weather', 'Motoring', and 'Car reports by fax'.

Weather forecast for 'AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY' and 'AROUND BRITAIN TODAY' with temperature and weather symbols for various regions.

Regional weather forecast for various UK locations including Aberdeen, London, Manchester, and others, with temperature and weather symbols.

A large weather forecast section featuring a map of the UK with weather symbols, a table of regional forecasts, and a table of today's weather for various cities.

A large advertisement for 'THE BIG REUSE' featuring a woman's face and the headline 'Bail app in road murder c'.